

U.S., U.N. deplore Lebanon violence

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House Tuesday deplored the increasing violence in Lebanon and called for a withdrawal of all foreign troops, including Israeli forces from Lebanese territory. "We deplore the violence in Lebanon and feel there should be a withdrawal of all foreign troops," spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters one day after Israeli troops crossed into Lebanon in search for resistance fighters (see story below). "We are concerned about the increasing level of violence and call for restraint by all parties," said a statement read by Fitzwater and also issued at the State Department. The statement did not mention Israel or Monday's incursions specifically, but when pressed by reporters in follow-up questions Fitzwater said the statement was in direct response to "the incident and that 'foreign troops' included those of Israel, and Syria and fighters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar also deplored the Israeli thrust into Lebanon as a further violation of Lebanon's sovereignty."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

U.N. chief cuts short Sahara mission

RABAT (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, visiting Morocco to press for a peaceful settlement of the 12-year-old Western Sahara conflict, was holding a second round of talks with King Hassan Tuesday night, his spokesman said. Perez de Cuellar conferred with the king for 90 minutes shortly after he arrived Monday afternoon, spokesman Francois Guilian told Reuters. He gave no details. Guilian said the U.N. leader was spending the day working on his papers and would later have dinner with the monarch, to be followed by further talks. He said Perez de Cuellar, who has unexpectedly cut short his North African tour, would leave for New York Wednesday. The U.N. leader originally planned to spend 24 hours in Rabat before going on to Mauritania and Algeria, which is supporting Polisario guerrillas fighting Morocco for control of the former Spanish territory. In Algeria, he had been scheduled to confer with leaders of Polisario's political wing, the Saharan Arab democratic republic.

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Ghali: Mideast conflict fuels fundamentalism

THE HAGUE (R) — An Egyptian minister said Monday that failure to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict was fueling religious fundamentalism. "The fact that we have been unable to find a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis reinforces fundamentalism," Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali told the Dutch Association of International Affairs in the Hague. "The situation may reach a point of no return, with the complete deterioration of the whole region," he said.

Iran, Libya blamed for Egypt attacks

CAIRO (AP) — A former interior minister, who escaped assassination last summer, said in a court testimony Tuesday he believed Iran and Libya have backed attacks by Egyptian extremists. Testifying as a prime witness in the trial of 31 Muslim fundamentalists charged with attempted murder, Al Nahawi Ismail said he did not see any of the attackers, or their car, after he survived a burst of gunfire Aug. 13, 1987. He was the third target in a series of attacks between May and August of that year. Gunmen shot and wounded another former interior minister, Hassan Abu Bashra, on May 6, and a state-owned magazine, editor, Makram Mohammad Ahmed on June 4. "They may be receiving instructions, money and ideas from abroad," Ismail said.

Yemenis pursue unity talks

ADEN (R) — A South Yemeni leader left for North Yemen Tuesday to pursue efforts to merge the two Yemens, official sources said. Ali Salem Al Baidh, secretary general of the ruling Socialist Party, will hold talks on reviving the Highest Yemeni Council, which comprises the presidents of the two states, to push unity negotiations forward, they said. The sources said South and North Yemen, which joined the ranks of Arab oil-producing countries last year, would also discuss exploring the oil resources of their border region.

5 more killed in Karachi riots

KARACHI (R) — Five more people died during Monday night and Tuesday morning in rioting between ethnic groups in Karachi, Pakistan's largest city. Police said unidentified gunmen in a car killed two people in a cinema queue and critically wounded four more. Doctors said two others died of wounds received during Sunday's clashes between rival Pashtuns from the northwest and Mohajirs. In another incident, an unidentified motorcyclist killed a rickshaw driver in a middle-class Mohajir district.

Superpowers to extend nuclear pact

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. and Soviet negotiators agreed Monday to recommend to their governments the renewal of a 15-year-old accord on cooperation in atomic energy. The accord, originally signed by former President Richard Nixon and the late Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev in June 1973, has facilitated cooperation in the areas of controlled thermonuclear fusion and the fundamental properties of matter.

Car bomb defused in British base

BIELEFELD, West Germany (R) — British forces in West Germany said Tuesday they had used controlled explosions to detonate a car bomb in a British army base in Bielefeld. "This afternoon an explosive device was successfully disrupted by an ammunition detection officer in a civilian car with British army numberplates," a spokesman told Reuters. "It was dealt with using two controlled explosions." The discovery of the bomb followed the deaths of three British servicemen in the Netherlands Sunday in two attacks near the West German border.

Widespread protests belie Israeli assertions that uprising is waning

Israelis claim three more Palestinian lives

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot dead three Palestinians and wounded several others Tuesday during widespread protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and also pursued a tough campaign against Palestinian information media in the occupied territories.

The renewed surge of violence appeared to contradict assertions by Israeli officials that the 21-week-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories was waning. Troops fired on stone-throwing demonstrators who attacked an army patrol in the West Bank village of Bani Naim, killing two Palestinians. Arab sources identified the dead villagers as Omar Mohammad Al Manasra, 18, and Nidal Ali Balut, 19, and said both were shot in the head. Several other boys were wounded by army gunfire, the sources added. In the Balata refugee camp, troops shot dead 23-year-old Khaled Rifqi Amireh, 23, during violent demonstrations, hospital sources said.

Israeli army storms Lebanon villages; Syrians on full alert

AIN ATA, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli troops and their militia allies stormed houses in search of resistance fighters Tuesday after advancing into South Lebanon and occupying four villages, sources quoted by news agencies said. The force of Israeli soldiers and South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen raided more than 50 houses in 'Ain Ata, Libbaya, Mimes and Kfair villages on the rugged slopes of Mount Hermon close to the Syrian border. Syrian soldiers stationed just north of the area went on alert and stopped people who had fled from the villages to question them on the Israeli operation. Sources in the town of Marjayoun, the SLA headquarters, told Reuters Israel sent more than 2,000 troops there Monday night and advanced Tuesday on the four villages, 10 kilometres beyond its self-declared border "security zone."

Iran claims Saudi security forces 'attacked' consulate

NICOSIA (R) — Iran accused Saudi security forces of attacking the Iranian consulate at Jeddah Tuesday and taking away the staff, Tehran Radio reported. "Saudi police and security forces savagely attacked the Iranian consulate general in Jeddah Tuesday afternoon and removed the Iranian staff in an inhuman way to an unknown location," it quoted foreign ministry sources as saying. Saudi Arabia gave Iranian diplomats seven days to leave when it announced April 27 it was breaking ties with Tehran. There was no immediate Saudi response to the claim. Tehran Radio did not explain its apparently erroneous statement that the Saudi action came before the deadline.

Fateh loyalists assume control of Beirut camps

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The mainline Palestinian Fateh faction was in control of two refugee camps Tuesday after crushing Syrian-backed dissidents in fighting the day before, police said. Police said eight people were killed and 43 wounded in the day-long fighting before a ceasefire went into effect late Monday at the Shatilla and Bourj Al Barajneh camps. The dissidents, according to the spokesman, "still have one position at Shatilla. It seems they will surrender it peacefully..." A 50-man committee of representatives of various factions of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was "working out the final details for their surrender," said the spokesman. It was the first major clash between Fateh and the dissidents, who include Saeed Mousa's

Israeli forces also raided a prominent Palestinian daily and arrested its managing editor in a continued crackdown on the Arab press, police said Tuesday. Hanna Siniora, editor of the Arab Jerusalem-based Al Fajr daily, said Israeli policemen entered the newspaper's offices Monday night. They arrested managing editor Hatem Abdul Khader and recorded names of other employees.

Israeli forces confirmed they carried out the raid, and said Abdul Khader would be jailed for six months without trial under Israeli emergency regulations. "I feel all these oppressive measures will backslash against the peace process," Siniora told the AP. "Journalists apparently are being singled out for special attention."

Siniora said it was not clear why Abdul Khader, managing editor for six years, was detained. He said Al Fajr was consulting its lawyers about what actions to take.

(Continued on page 5)

the sources said. Israeli soldiers carrying automatic rifles strolled through the deserted streets of 'Ain Ata as villagers watched from their windows or doorsteps. Many residents had fled. In Beirut, acting Prime Minister Selim Hoss told Reuters and Visnews television news agency Lebanon was lodging a complaint against Israel at the United Nations and was considering calling for a Security Council meeting. "The Israelis claim it is a search operation, but it is much more than that," Hoss said. "The Israelis are terrorising the population. They are paralysing civil life and wreaking havoc."

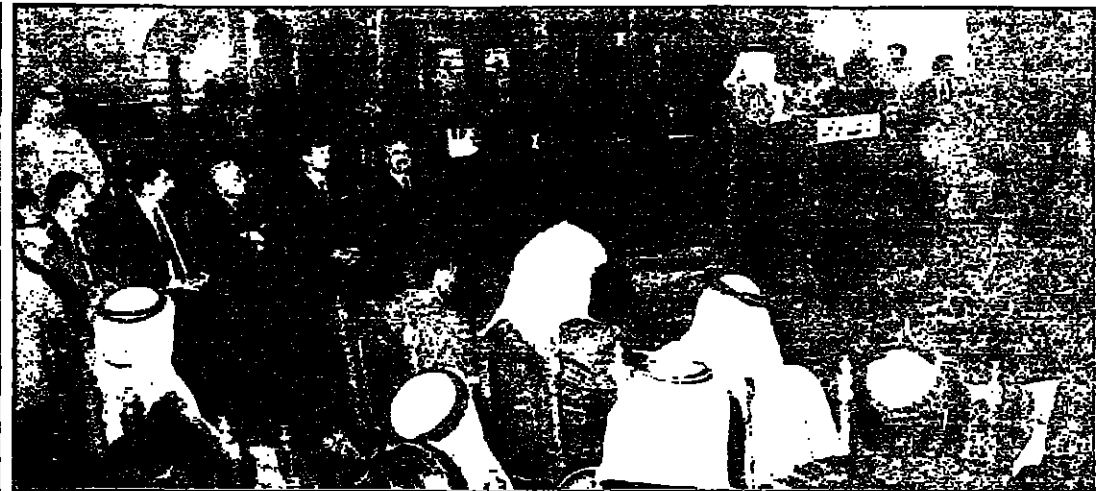
"Due to the gravity of the situation, we gave instructions to our representative at the United Nations to lodge a serious complaint and explore the possibility of calling the security council for a meeting," Hoss added.

U.S. plan for Taba unacceptable to Shamir

TEL AVIV (R) — A U.S. proposal to end a nine-year-old border dispute between Israel and Egypt over a Red Sea beach strip is unacceptable to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in its current form, a senior aide said Tuesday. Shamir spokesman Avi Pazner said the plan presented this week by U.S. State Department legal adviser Abraham Sofaer provides for full Egyptian control over the 700-metre Taba enclave. He denied reports from an official close to Foreign Minister Shimon Peres that Israel would retain effective control over Taba under the U.S. plan. "As it stands now there is nothing in (the plan) for Israel," Pazner said. Pazner said Shamir would meet Wednesday with Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin in an effort to reach a common stand on the proposal. Pazner said the key issue for Shamir was that Israel maintain free access to Taba. "We still don't have that in the proposal," he said. If the three leaders fail to reach agreement, Shamir will probably take the plan to the inner cabinet, where his right-wing Likud bloc ministers could block its approval.

Gulf leaders receive King's message

AMMAN (J.T.) — United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan and Bahraini Emir Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa have received messages from His Majesty King Hussein dealing with Jordan's principles and position towards settling the Middle East conflict through an international conference attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties involved in the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported Tuesday. Petra said the message, which were delivered by Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, also emphasised Jordan's position that it would not be a substitute for the PLO in representing the Palestinian people. Qasem, who also held a brief meeting with Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Mubarak, returned home later Tuesday.



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday speaks at an iftar he hosted in Amman for senior government officials, parliament and cabinet members, ministers and notables from Amman Governorate.

King: Jordan determined to live with honour and defend Arab Nation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday that Jordan, despite its limited and few resources, was determined to live with honour and defend Arab land and carry out its duty towards future generations. Speaking at an iftar he hosted in Amman for senior officials and leading personalities, the King also paid tribute to the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, praised Iraq for its steadfast stand against aggression on Arab land and reaffirmed Jordan's stand that it considers any attack on Arab territory as an attack on the whole Arab Nation.

Following are major excerpts from the King's speech: I am happy to have the chance

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan braced for possible locust invasion

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is bracing itself for a possible invasion of its southern region by locusts that may, depending on wind directions infest the area on their way out of Saudi Arabia, a senior official said Tuesday. Khairuddin Oweidat, head of the Ministry of Agriculture's operations centre for monitoring locust movements, told the Jordan Times that locusts were now about 200 kilometres from the Jordanian borders with Saudi Arabia. Upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein, the ministers of agriculture in the two countries are sharing information on locust movements and their possible movement towards Jordan, Oweidat said.

Oweidat said army headquarters and the Public Security Department were coordinating efforts with the Ministry of Agriculture and other concerned authorities and gathering information "in preparation for a possible infestation." "So far, Jordan is free from locusts," Oweidat confirmed. "They are currently being confronted in Saudi Arabia," he said. "Until today, the weather conditions have been in our favour." He explained that the winds were currently blowing in a north-eastern direction in the Al Jawf area of Saudi Arabia which means that locusts may spare Jordan in their Near East plague

(Continued on page 5)



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Of Places and People

Years of formal education

By Dr. Nicola A. Ziadeh

YEARS later I came to realise the value of my stay (1921-4) at the Training (later Arab) College, the only formal education I ever had in my youth. I had had snatches of learning here and there — Damascus, Talkarem, Nazareth and Jenin. But now things were quite different.

In speaking of those years I shall not project my later experience and learning; I hope to be able to recapture the scenes and situations as events were then moving, and I was moving with them, and not things receding, away from me, into the distant past.

Thus in the autumn of 1921 I found myself in a position where I had to learn about, and acquaint myself with a number of things: My fellow-students, my teachers and Jerusalem, the big city. I had to explore, yes explore, and how appropriate this word sounds, all these. With time it proved that exploring my fellow-students was the most difficult task. Hardly a hundred in number at one time, but with faces changing at the beginning of every academic year. They came from all parts of Palestine, town and village alike. We studied together, we ate at a common table, we served at those tables, we played together — yet we remained individuals. Each had his own personality, which, on many occasions, he tried to conceal. Here lay the difficulty of the attempt at exploration.

Our teachers stood, at least for some time, at pedestals, as compared with the Jenin teachers. The name of big universities came to the fore now. Columbia, MIT, Istanbul and the American University of Beirut, became household words. Our teacher of mathematics had studied at Istanbul. His knowledge of the subject might have been good, but as he always bragged his degree, we were not impressed. This sarcastic remarks, on students and colleagues alike, were sickening. Whatever I learnt from him was due to the fact that he was seriously interested in the subject. Another teacher, an alumnus of AUB

came to us from the Preparatory School in Beirut. His position was vice-principal; but he soon proved to be the principal vice of the place. Intrigue, not geography, was his speciality. He, and two other teachers conspired to oust the principal, Khalil Totah. So when we returned to school after the spring — Easter holidays, we found that the three had been sent away to other jobs.

During my first year at the college there was only one teacher-leader — Khalil Totah. He was energetic, practical, understanding and inspiring in his quiet way. Totah realised, I think, more than anyone else that the time had not yet come to subject the students to a regularly drawn programme of studies. When you had in one class, my class, students whose ages ranged from less than fourteen to twenty-two years; who had come from a variety of backgrounds; and whose abilities to learn differed greatly — when you have material to mould all you can do is to let them learn as much as they can. This gave us a scope for personal work. There will come a time when programmes of studies would be prescribed, students would be better prepared and sounder methods of selection would be applied.

When we constructed a tennis court, an innovation for that kind of school, Totah worked with us. But not many teachers. The maths teacher scorned the idea; he said he came from an aristocratic family. I discovered later that the only semblance of aristocracy was a change of family name from a humble family name to a descendant of a branch of the Prophet family.

Totah took us for walks around Jerusalem; this helped me explore the place. One of his first and most exciting visits to the walls of the Holy City. We walked near the foundations of Herod's time, and climbed the ramparts built by Suleiman the Magnificent of Turkey in 1543. We also saw sections which belonged to periods in between.

When we returned to the college in the autumn of 1922 after the summer vacation, we found some changes. We had been housed in two buildings, and had been rather crowded. The upper floor of a third building was added, so there was just a little more elbow-room.

More importantly was the arrival of new teachers: One that I'll call Y., with a degree from MIT and Darwish Al Haj Ibrahim (later Miqdadi), a new

graduate from AUB. Y.'s novelty soon wore out, and he felt that the college offered him too small a scope for his learning, so he left it and opened a chemist's place at Ramallah. Darwish was youthful (24 years), tall, imposing with sandy hair and blue eyes. After a few lessons in history, a subject I particularly disliked then, I felt the man was inspired and could be stimulating. We struck a friendship which lasted till his death in 1961. One or two other teachers joined our college then, but they were not more than just cogs in the wheels.

In June 1916 Sharif Hussain of Mecca, carried Arab arms against the Turks; an event which later historians called "the Great Arab Revolt." Arab armies, marching through the Hijaz and Jordan reached Damascus, where an Arab state was created in Syria, with Faisal, Hussain's son as its head as Amir (later proclaimed king). This state was treacherously and brutally destroyed by the French (July 1920) with the immoral support of the British.

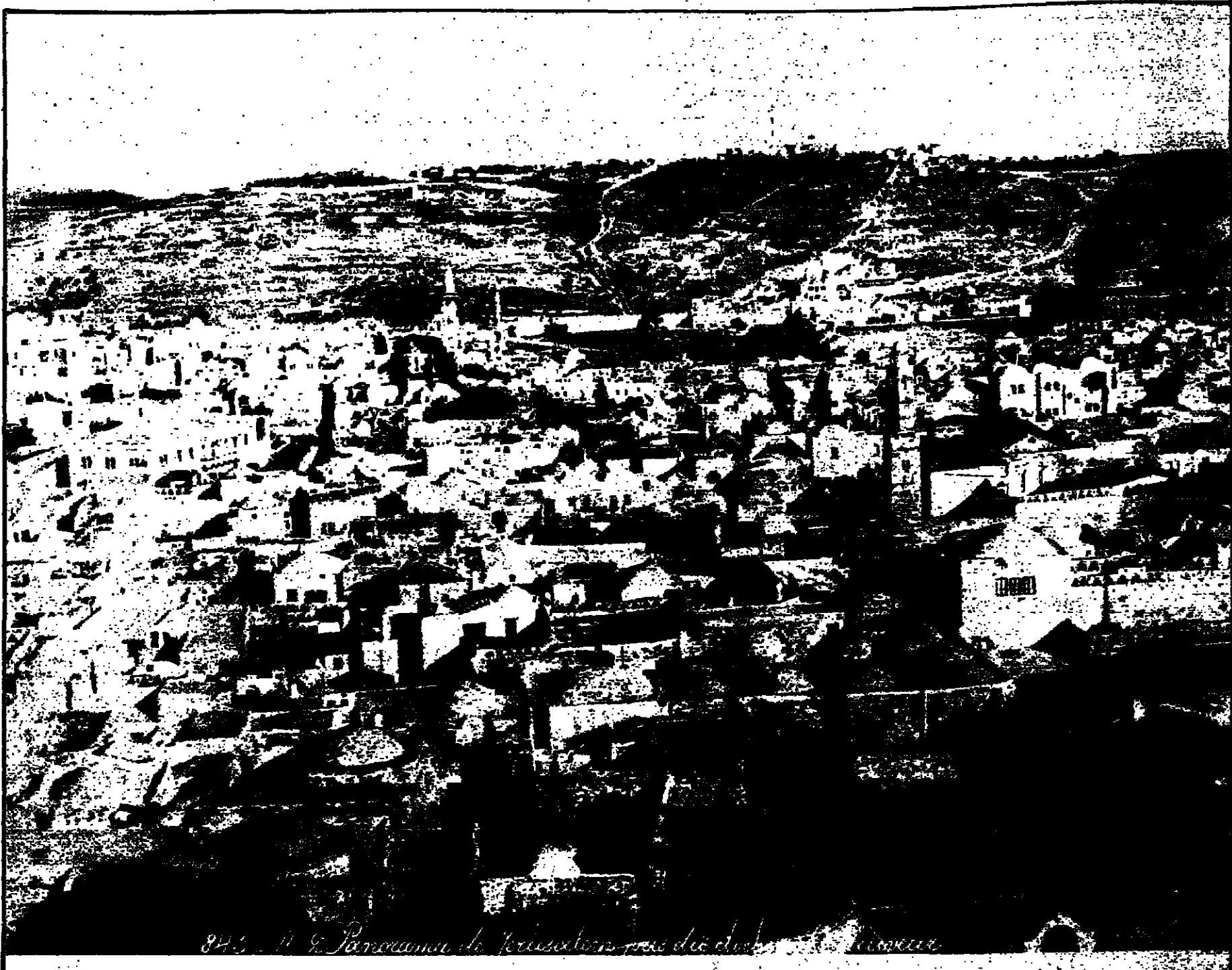
On November 2, 1917 (exactly five weeks before the British army entered Jerusalem) the British government issued the Balfour Declaration, which was the cornerstone of the foundation first of a national home for the Jews in Palestine and then the state of Israel.

"During my first year at the college there was only one teacher-leader — Khalil Totah."

While still at Jenin-I had no way of knowing much about the events of the Arab Revolt or the meaning of the Balfour Declaration. None of our teachers was in a position to elucidate or even explain them. Maruf Al Said, one of the late arrivals as a teacher had deserted the Turkish army and joined the Arab (Faisal's) army. But instead of informing us about the actual events, he continuously spoke of his military exploits, which could not have been worth shouting about considering that he was plummy, slow moving and shortsighted. Another native of Jenin appeared there in the summer of 1920. Faiz had apparently served in Faisal's government in Syria in some military or police capacity. He went on wearing his para-military uniform, while helping his brother at their grocery, until some one pointed out to him that such behaviour was inappropriate. Faiz was reticent about his Damascus days.

The Arabic press which Palestine knew at that time — *Al Karmel* of Haifa (published by Najib Nassar) and *Falastin* of Jaffa (published by 'Isa Al-'Isa) — was not available at Jenin. Occasionally one saw a paper there, but occasional things do not provide one with education — this comes through a continuous process.

The Training College provided me with this continuous flow of material for the understanding of more issues than one!



(Above) The Old City of Jerusalem (looking east towards the Mount of Olives) as seen from the balcony of the Church of St. Saviour. The Dome of the Rock Mosque is top right, and (left), Jerusalem under snow



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PROGRAMME ONE

14:00 Koran
14:20 Programme review
14:25 Cartoons
15:05 Children's series
15:25 Religious programme
15:50 Thousand and One Nights
16:15 Arabic play
17:10 Cooking programme
17:20 Religious programme
17:50 Health programme
18:00 Arabic series
18:50 Koranic contest
19:00 Religious programme
19:35 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Puzzles from all over the world
22:00 Historical series
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Arabic series

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Les Misérables, eps. 1
19:00 News in French
19:15 Auparavant Hui En Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Sports Magazine
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Spectacular World of Guinness Records
21:00 Hooperman (comedy series)
21:30 Twilight Zone
22:00 News in English
22:20 Ford

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07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show Cont.
10:00 News Summary
10:05 Morning Show Cont.
11:00 30 Minute Theatre
11:30 Songs from Movies
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Readings
12:30 Pop Session
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 The Young Sound
15:00 Concert Hour
15:00 News in Summary
16:00 Instrumentals
16:05 Old Favourites
16:30 Jordan Weekly

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Choice 07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial
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09:00 Newsdesk 09:30 Meridian 10:00
World News 10:05 Twenty-Four
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Reflections 11:15 Classical Record 12:00
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Roundup 12:45 Folk in Britain 13:00
News Summary followed by Omnibus
13:30 Jazz Score 14:00 World News
14:30 News about Britain 14:35 Time
for Verse 14:45 A Letter from Wales
14:50 Meridian 15:00 Radio Newsrel
15:15 Great Love Duets 15:25 The
Farming World 15:45 Sports Roundup
16:00 World News 16:05 Twenty-Four
Hours: News Summary

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Hindawi opens school exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — An exhibition displaying educational activities of the "Jordanian" government schools was Tuesday opened at Sukaina School on Jabal Hussein in Amman by Minister of Education Thouran Hindawi.

A total of 21 Departments of Education in the Kingdom are taking part in the exhibition which displays samples of the students' work such as paintings, scientific flowers, national costumes, embroideries, Arabic handwriting, knitwear and religious studies.

The exhibition also displays educational aids, simple scientific experiments, essays and reports and studies.

Attending the opening ceremony was Ministry of Education's Secretary General Raddi Wafiq and senior ministry officials and directors of secondary schools from various governorates.

WAJ urges rationing of water

AMMAN — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) has issued a request to the members of the public to ration their water consumption. Al-Dustour newspaper reported a WAJ official as saying that ration has become necessary to ease the pressure on the water resources especially in the Greater Amman region. They said that constant maintenance of pipes at home saves water.

441 drug smuggling operations prevented

AMMAN (J.T.) — A report issued by the Public Security Department (PSD) reveals that the department's narcotics succeeded in preventing 441 drug smuggling operations in Jordan between 1984 and 1987.

The report indicates that 1,006 people of whom 496 were non-Jordanians had been involved in these cases. The report attributes the discovery and the prevention of drug smuggling over the past three years to modern techniques and up to date equipment employed by the anti-narcotics squads.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TIES WITH JAPAN: Transport and Telecommunication Minister Khalid Raj Hassan Tuesday reviewed with Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Makoto Hatanabashi means of developing bilateral relations in the field of telecommunications and transport. Interior Minister Raji Dajani also reviewed bilateral relations and scopes of cooperation with Hatanabashi.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES: Youth Minister Awad Khleifat Tuesday discussed means of enhancing bilateral cooperation in the field of sports and matters related youth activities with French Ambassador to Jordan Patrick Lederoq.

ISLAMIC CENTRE: Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat has formed a board of directors for the Irbid based Islamic Cultural Centre, chaired by Raslan Bani Yasin. The board includes Ahmad Salah, Radi Bdour, Oassem Hammouri, Mohammad Shara'a, Abdul Rahman Ibdah, Rida Bataineh, Abdullah Malkawi, Ahmad Johar, Ahmad Tawalbeh, and Mu'tassem Al Ibbini.

W. GERMAN ENVOY: Deputy Director of Public Security Department Tuesday reviewed with the West German Ambassador to Jordan Herwig Bartels scope of cooperation and exchange of expertise in the field of police work.

MAN GETS 8 YEARS: The Military Governor has endorsed the military court's verdict, convicting Sami Mohammad Jamil Darwish of importing and possessing heroin and sentencing him to 8 years in prison and a fine of JD 1,500.

CROPPING PATTERNS: Ghor Al Safi and Ghor Al Mazra'ah agricultural extension centres Tuesday started registering farmers wishing to apply the cropping pattern during the 1988/1989 agricultural season. Agriculture Department officials in the south Jordan Valley said that the cropping pattern will be used with 50,000 dunums this year.

VISITORS BANNED: Al Bashir Hospital banned all visits to in-patients on Tuesdays, in order to ensure the comfort of the patients, the Arabic daily Al-Dustour reported.

HANDICAPPED: On the occasion of its 20th anniversary, the Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief, in Sweileh, holds a three-day photo exhibition beginning Wednesday, to mark the National Week for the Mentally Retarded. On display are handicrafts produced by the centre's students.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT: The British Ambassador to Jordan, Anthony Reeve, Tuesday presented to the Palestine Hospital in Amman haematology equipment worth over six thousand Jordanian dinars. This equipment permits precise evaluation of blood samples within a couple of minutes, which would formerly have taken several hours to analyse. The British government have also ordered a nursing incubator for the hospital, which will be delivered on its arrival in Jordan.

MAN MURDERED: A 40-year-old man identified only as J.M.A. was murdered in the Bani Kinana district. A report in Al-Rai Arabic daily said that the man was stabbed several times and fired at by an unidentified assailant. The police are holding an investigation.

3 DIE IN PAST 24 HOURS: A statistical bulletin issued by the Public Security Department revealed that three people died and several others were injured as a result of road accidents and other incidents that occurred in the Kingdom, in the previous 24 hours. Among those killed was a woman who had eaten contaminated food.

UNIVERSITY GRADUATION: The University of Jordan will hold the Graduation ceremonies Wednesday during which several cultural functions will be organised. Graduates have been invited to meet with the university president and the deans of various faculties before attending a seminar on higher education in Jordan. Several university professors will address the audience.



Minister of Education Thouran Hindawi tours the different sections of the Sukaina School exhibition in Amman Tuesday (Petra photo)

RJ marks Iraqi leader's birthday

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) has held a ceremony here Monday in cooperation with other Arab airlines to celebrate Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's birthday.

RJ office Director in Baghdad

Qafan Tarawneh made a speech on behalf of the Arab airlines expressing good wishes to the president and paying tribute to the victories achieved by the Iraqi Armed Forces and their liberation of the Fao peninsula.

Tarawneh referred to the

strong relations existing between Jordan and Iraq and their bilateral cooperation in various fields.

The ceremony was attended by senior Iraqi officials and Arab ambassadors in Iraq.

Carrier to buy 2 Airbus simulators

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) has signed a contract to buy two Airbus FF simulators (A320 and A310) from Thomson-CSF; they will have the latest redefinition SPX-500 HT super wide visual systems.

The two simulators are scheduled to go into service at the Royal Jordanian Training Centre in early 1990.

The centre, which opened in 1977, provides comprehensive personnel training, in-flight engineering and maintenance for

Royal Jordanian and other airlines.

RJ Chairman Ali Ghandour has said: "We have matured over the years. We have come of age and are ready to take a quantum leap into the 1990's."

The decade will begin with the delivery to Royal Jordanian of six Airbus A320s — another first, as it is the first Arab airline to have ordered these European-built aircrafts. Ghandour says: "Royal Jordanian has also contracted to

buy six Airbus A310-300s with an additional option for a further four A320s and three A310s."

The new generation of Airbus simulators from Thomson-CSF incorporates the highly advanced MAGIC instructor station (Multiple Action Global Interactive Control System), which is a computer-assisted display system utilising touch-sensitive screens.

Flight control and cockpit movements are based on the latest fully digital technology.

Committee to announce circulation of tenders for Al Wahdeh Dam tunnel

IRBID (J.T.) — A technical committee has completed a study of applications by various construction companies seeking to qualify for a tender to build an 800-metre-long tunnel within Al Wahdeh Dam near Al Makara on the Syrian-Jordanian border.

Al-Rai Arabic daily reported that tenders for the tunnel which will take a year to build will be announced soon.

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation has prepared final designs for the projected dam, which would store up to 220

million cubic metres of water annually. Of this water 70 million cubic metres will be used for irrigation and drinking purposes in the Amman and Balqa governorates and will be made to generate 20 megawatts of electric power, 75 per cent of which will be supplied to Syria, according to the report.

The dam which is to be built on the Yarmouk River will cause a

change in the geographic features of the area, forming an artificial lake some seven kilometres long, which will be suitable for breeding fish.

Syria and Jordan last September signed an agreement on the construction of the dam which will be implemented by Jordan and financed through loans from a number of Arab and international sources.

Ministry offers services to 13 refugee camps

ZARQA (Petra) — The Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs offers services to 13 Palestinian refugee camps around the Kingdom and maintains close cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) on all matters designed to improve living conditions for the camp residents, according to the ministry's Secretary General Ahmad Qatani.

Qatani was speaking at a general meeting held here Tuesday to discuss general conditions in camps within the Zarqa governorate and the problems they encounter.

He said that the ministry, in cooperation with UNRWA, continues to restore buildings, pave streets, supply water and distribute food supplies to the refugees in these camps.

The meeting reviewed the three refugee camps in Zarqa governorate and basic services supplied to them.

The governor announced that the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs had allocated JD 100,000 for opening roads at the Hitin Refugee Camp.

The meeting also reviewed matters related to water and health.

Arab ministers discuss health in occupied lands

GENEVA (Petra) — Jordan has been elected to join an Arab committee to prepare and submit a draft resolution to the World Health Organisation (WHO) on the general health condition of Arabs under Israeli rule.

Jordan, Syria and Palestine will work on the draft resolution which would expose Israeli practices and inhuman treatment of the Palestinian people.

They would request that the WHO interfere and end such practices, according to a decision taken by the Arab Health Ministers Council which convened here Monday.

The council, meeting under the chairmanship of Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh, will also coordinate Arab stands vis-a-vis issues which will be discussed by the WHO in its current session.

Hamzeh will deliver an address Wednesday on behalf of the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office, at a ceremony to be held here on the WHO's 40th anniversary.

On Wednesday evening Jordan television will screen a documentary film featuring the role of Arab countries in promoting the WHO's activities in health affairs.

Karak society to set up vocational training centre for handicapped

KARAK (Petra) — The Karak Society for the Care of the Handicapped has made plans to set up a vocational training centre for the rehabilitation of handicapped students in cooperation with the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF).

The society's president said that the projected centre, which would be set up in the second half of 1988, is expected to cost JD 70,000.

Students, who complete courses at the Mu'ta Special Education Centre, can enrol at the projected advanced centre to acquire skills and training, to enable them to adapt to the needs

of life and to earn a living.

The society will establish branches in a number of locations in the Karak governorate with the purpose of extending its services to a larger sector of people, the president said.

At present the society, in cooperation with the QAF, is conducting a survey of the number of handicapped people in the governorate, types of handicaps and means of offering proper care and rehabilitation for them, the president said.

The society has contributed to the establishment of the Mu'ta Special Education Centre with

Hananian outlines NMI's plan of action

National Medical Institution to start operation in July

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The National Medical Institution (NMI) will start operations by the 1st of July, 1988 when all hospitals operated by the Health Ministry, the Armed Forces and Jordanian universities will be run by the NMI's Central Administration, NMI Director General Lieutenant-General Dr. Daoud Hanania announced Tuesday.

He said that a committee formed from the Ministry of Finance, and which includes representatives of the other public sectors, is now involved in preparing a comprehensive financial set of regulations, and a budget for the institution which was first created in August 1987.

Hananian said the NMI will retain its financial and administrative independence and it will maintain close coordination with the Health Ministry, medical schools and the private sector as well.

Hananian told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the NMI was created upon the initiative of His Majesty King Hussein with the purpose of providing specialised medical care to the public, and raising the country's medical standard and quality in a manner that would enable it to cope with new developments.

"The NMI will focus its attention on improving hospital management and providing integrated services to the public in emergencies, natural disasters and wars," Hanania added.

He said that the NMI will give attention to the development of manpower employed in hospitals, such as doctors, nurses and technicians. It will unify health planning policies and will adopt a national plan that would give priority to the society's needs.

In addition, the NMI will organise expenditure on medical treatment and will reduce expenses through proper handling of funds and through avoiding any wastage of money and efforts, Hanania said.

The NMI will encourage continued and advanced training for staff and research work in cooperation with the Higher Council for Science and Technology, Hanania added.

The NMI board, which recently met under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hussein decided to place all Health Ministry hospitals, hospitals operated by the Royal Medical Services and those at Jordanian universities under the NMI's authority as of July 1988, Hanania said.

He added that for the time being the staff needed to run the NMI's General Administration will be recruited from a number of government departments until a permanent administrative system has been set up.

New nuclear radiology unit

The board decided to embark on legal arrangements for the

Documents on national building code on sale

AMMAN (Petra) — Documents containing details of the Jordanian national building code will be sold to the public for JD 1, to orient people on the technical research and studies conducted in the construction field, according to a decision by Minister of Public Works and Housing Shafiq Zawaideh.

Zawaideh said the code contains a general set of specifications for buildings, offering good information for those concerned in the construction business.

"The construction sector stands to benefit greatly from the information contained in the national code and therefore it should be available at reasonable prices," Zawaideh noted.

Also Tuesday Zawaideh met with British Ambassador to Jordan Anthony Reeve and discussed with him aspects of bilateral cooperation in various fields.

staff, and another for sending them on scholarships, or delegating them to attend medical conferences.

The board will appoint a special committee that will coordinate and organise work related to medical research. It will provide means and facilities for such work, and will soon issue a periodical that will help planners and researchers to remain abreast with medical developments, Hanania noted.

The NMI will take measures to improve the conditions of hospital staff and protect their rights, Hanania added.

He said that the NMI will supervise health security schemes, now adopted by the Health Ministry and the Armed Forces, and will later look into the prospect of unifying them into one system.

"Now that numerous health centres, offering primary health care to the public, have been established around the country, the NMI will turn its attention to introducing a system by which patients can be referred from these centres to higher and advanced centres and hospitals for further specialised treatment," Hanania said.

He said the primary health care centres introduced by the Minis-

try of Health have a basic and important role to play, and the NMI will maintain full cooperation with the ministry and its centres in the future.

King Abdullah Hospital

Asked about the projected King Abdullah Hospital in Irbid, Hanania said it will be one of the most up-to-date hospitals in the world.

The NMI in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Works has set up a new committee comprising doctors and engineers from the public sector to supervise work on that hospital. Hanania pointed out.

He said that documents and designs pertaining to the projected hospital have already been revised and a tender for the work will be announced in the coming few weeks.

When completed, the new 600-bed hospital will offer services to the northern districts of the Kingdom and will also serve as an educational hospital for students of the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), Hanania noted.

Soon the NMI will start recruiting specialists and other staff to operate this new hospital. Hanania added.

Hananian was appointed as NMI director general last October.



Lieutenant-General Dr. Daoud Hanania (right) speaks to Jordan News Agency, Petra reporter Samih Haddad in Amman Tuesday (Petra photo)

RSS department projects seek to protect environment, public health

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Chemistry Department at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) is currently conducting several important research projects designed to offer better protection to the environment and the health of the general public, RSS engineer Subhi Ramadan said here Tuesday.

Ramadan who is in charge of the department's studies on environmental pollution said that most of the attention is focused on the country's water resources, which are scarce and require appropriate attention.

The Industrial Chemistry Department is undertaking a five-year national study on water pollution which entails controlling the quality of potable water; mineral water, sold in bottles; wastewater; water in treatment plants and basins in all parts of the country except in the Aqaba region, Ramadan said.

This project, the first of its kind in the Kingdom, is being financed by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, Ramadan noted.

He said another project entails studies on wastewater treated by the Khirbet Al Samra wastewater treatment plant. This project, he said, will study the type of water and the changes it undergoes from the point of its accumulation at Ain Ghazal station and from Zarqa and Ruseifa, until it arrives at the Khirbet Al Samra Plant

and after its treatment there.

This study also aims at evaluating the efficiency and the potential of the Khirbet Al Samra Plant as well as the suitability of the treated water, which would be recycled for other purposes, Ramadan noted.

He said that this project is being financed by the Ministry of Planning and is being carried out under the supervision of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

The department is at present involved in monitoring water stored behind the King Talal Dam to determine the quality of the water and the seasonal changes it undergoes, depending on the changing kinds of pollutants from one year to another, Ramadan noted.

He said that monitoring, which will continue through 1990, is also aimed at determining the suitability of the water for recycling.

This project is being financed by the Ministry of Planning in cooperation with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Ramadan noted.

He said another project entails monitoring several wastewater treatment plants.

This project entails constant field trips and visits to various plants around the Kingdom, conducting laboratory tests of samples at the RSS and preparing periodical reports, Ramadan continued.

the whole process, he said, aims at improving the work of these plants, so that they can produce unpolluted treated water that does not cause any harm to the environment.

These projects, he added, are being financed by the private sector.

The Industrial Chemistry Department has designed and set up a special plant for the treatment of cyanide.

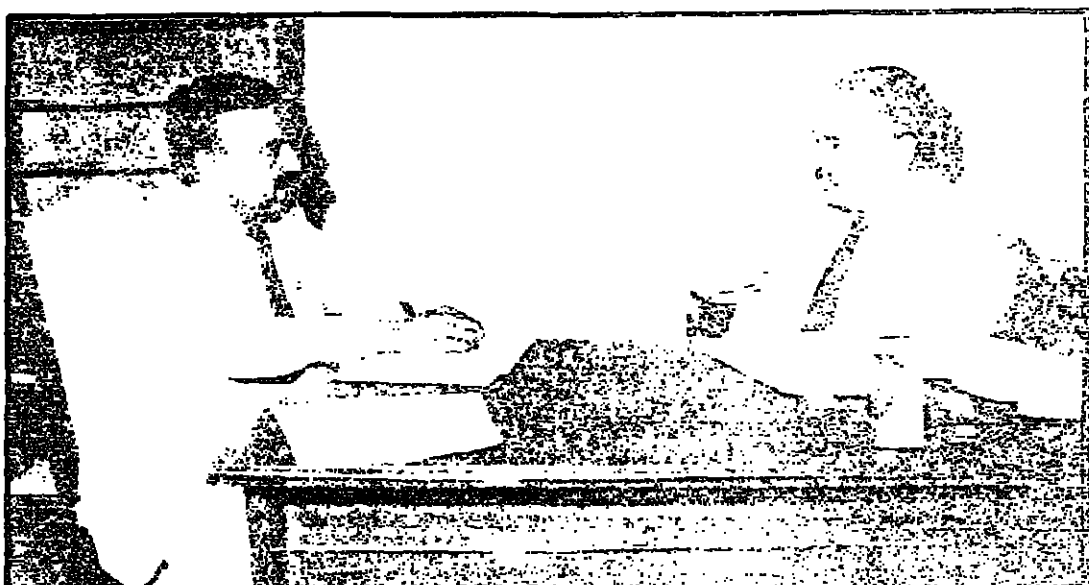
This project is financed by an Arab company which manufactures aluminium, and continues to offer consultancy services to the public and private sectors in water used for agriculture, and fish breeding; while conducting research on the validity and suitability of food stuff, and fodder, Ramadan noted.

He said, the department is also involved in a research project and the monitoring of the atmosphere around Amman.

This project, he said, entails constant measurements of the amount of pollution resulting from industry, and exhaust fumes from cars as well as offering advice on ways to curtail pollution.

According to Ramadan, this project is being financed by the RSS in cooperation with a Canadian institution.

The findings of the department, Ramadan said, would benefit the private and public sectors alike.



Royal Scientific Society Engineer Subhi Ramadan (right) speaks to Jordan News Agency, Petra reporter Salim Mu'ani in Amman Tuesday (Petra photo)

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Jordan Times advertising department.

'Moses would have thought otherwise'

THE Israeli attack into south Lebanon against the Palestinian and Lebanese national resistance would be quite funny, were it not for the fact that countries are being invaded and people are being killed. We use the word funny because it should be obvious to Israel, and to its American armourers and financiers, that the concept of security stemming from the effectiveness of one's armed forces is rather untenable, given the very persistent uprising of the Palestinians living under direct Israeli military occupation. If the Israelis cannot bring order to the children of Palestine, how can they expect to pacify an area such as south Lebanon?

The answer, of course, is that they cannot. The Israeli invasion of south Lebanon will come and go in the same manner as scores of other such invasions have come and gone. The security of Israel will not be enhanced; the will of the Palestinians and the Lebanese to be free will only be fortified; the ability of the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance to strike into targets in Israel will remain unchanged. The only thing that will be achieved is that the fantasies of Israeli generals will be satisfied for a brief moment, and militaristic dreamers in Israel will stretch out their make-believe world in which armed force is the answer to all problems.

One suspects that Moses would have thought otherwise, and that thoughtful Jews all over the world would start questioning the rationality and efficacy of Israel's resort to arms every time it was confronted with a political or a human dilemma.

The Palestinian and Lebanese attacks against Israel stem from a denial of political rights by Israel; the armed attacks against Israel will cease when their underlying cause has been treated. That cause is political, not military. When the Palestinians exercise their national right of self-determination, and when the Lebanese live as free people in their own country, Israel will enjoy genuine security. Military invasions by Israel would only exacerbate the underlying causes of the violence which Israel complains of, and claims to treat with its invasions. If people were not being killed and countries invaded, this would all be rather funny.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Best wishes

THE Jordanian family Monday celebrated the 35th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers, an occasion in which Jordanians renewed their allegiance to the Hashemite throne. It was an occasion for the Jordanians to remember the long and continuous march, and the steadfastness and the construction of the country and the great achievements under King Hussein over the past 35 years. Over these past years Jordan has been true to its principles and committed to uphold the national values and to work for the achievement of a better future for the Arab World at large. The people of this country have so much to be proud of, and so much to work diligently for. For the Jordanian people, the Palestine issue has become the central issue and a daily business, because indeed it is an issue that affects our existence and our future. This obsession has placed all people on both banks of the River Jordan in the same trench, fighting the same enemy and aiming to achieve the same aspirations. Over the past 35 years under King Hussein the people in Jordan have believed that the Palestinians have the right to determine their own future in their own homeland, and they alone have to decide on their future. King Hussein in the past weeks has been reiterating and reaffirming this fact, and stressing that Jordan will continue to work hand in hand with the Palestinians to regain their rights and their territory and also to thwart expansionist moves by the common enemy. We convey to the King, the best wishes on this occasion and we are confident that he will lead his people to victory.

Al Dustour: King reaching for the people

IN an Iftar banquet in Balqa Governorate King Hussein said all citizens are committed to shoulder their responsibilities towards their own country and nation. This, he said, is an implementation of the basic principles of the Great Arab Revolt and this is a true demonstration of national belonging. Throughout Ramadan the King has been keen on reaching to the people and addressing their minds, recalling with them the hardships in the long march towards progress, and the danger which this country had to overcome. There is no way for us to achieve victory over the common enemy without unity and cohesion and national belonging regardless of the difficulties and the looming threats. The King stressed that the martyrs who fell on the road towards liberation set an example for us and for all people seeking freedom and unity. This unity is required now in view of the mounting hardships and the conspiracies posed against the Arab Nation. The King reiterated to the nation that Jordan with all its might will seek justice and will spare no effort to regain the usurped rights. He reminded the nation of the sacrifice offered by Al Hussein Ibn Ali who did not compromise on the right of the Palestinian people and the martyrdom of his grandfather King Abdullah who fell on Palestinian soil. From the Salt mountains overlooking Jerusalem the King reiterated Jordan's stand with regard to the Palestine question and the nation's determination to regain its rights and end injustice.

Sawt Al Shaab: 35 years of leadership

KING Hussein has spent the past 35 years offering his service to the Jordanian people and leading them towards construction, progress and prosperity. Upholding the principles of the Great Arab Revolt King Hussein has been able to lead the Jordanian people towards one success after another in different fields and has worked diligently to serve all Arab causes. The past 35 years marked a real unity between the leader and the people in Jordan which has enjoyed security and stability, and which strives to achieve unity and to save the Palestinian people from the Zionist yoke. Over the past years, Jordan has experienced social, scientific and economic development, transforming the country into a modern state, thanks to the wisdom and the dynamism which characterises the leader. These past years witnessed also the strengthening of the Armed Forces in the face of the Zionist enemy and its expansionist designs in the Arab World. Indeed, modern Jordan is linked to King Hussein, and its development was achieved under his reign.

Irreversible march towards self-determination

By Edward Said

AT NO point in modern Middle Eastern history has a mass uprising been so vast and protracted in scale, so radical in its results, so profoundly meaningful as the current one in the Israeli-occupied territories.

For one thing, this uprising has totally discredited the notion that the Palestinian issue — the Palestinian people themselves — can be finessed or ignored, or that, given the proper mixture of benign neglect and intimidation, the Palestinians will simply go away as a "problem." For another, the Palestinians as a whole have now gone into direct mass confrontation with the Israeli military in the occupied territories, and politically they have successfully defied and staked what is in effect one of the most redoubtable armies in the world. More important, in showing no fear but acting with great resourcefulness, the Palestinians have reduced the Israeli presence and its schemes on the West Bank and Gaza to reactive measures — cruel, stupid, politically bankrupt.

The entire Palestinian nation is now unified; the distinctions between classes, communities and interests have been scrubbed; all are together. Internationally, there is little sympathy for Israel now as, unconditionally armed and supported politically by the United States, it lurches from refusal and negation to killing and bombing, pretending that the issue is simply one of law and order. Whose law and order?

The uprising is an eruption of history compressed into the daily energies of a long-suffering, often forgotten and routinely abused people. Slowly the great disparity diminishes between Western praise and admiration for Israel as a democracy and pioneering state, on the one hand, and, on the other, the ignorant opprobrium Palestinians have had heaped on them since their world was shattered in 1948. Yet if there can be no return to the past for us, the same is at least as true for Israel and the United States. Here a new set of problems has emerged.

It is surprisingly difficult to shift from having hardly any status to a position of relative and acknowledged centrality, but this is what has

happened to the Palestinian people. By sheer force of will, this has been our achievement, symbolised by the uprising. No one, I think, doubts that our march to self-determination is now irreversible, but the course is still for us to map; our leaders and representatives remain ours to choose. Even the United States tacitly accepts these realities.

We still require more clarity in our discourse and engageable positions to be articulated. Yasser Arafat's recent interviews with Anthony Lewis and Youssef Ibrahim of the New York Times are good cases in point, but here we also need some abatement in the unremitting propaganda war against us in the United States, where Israel commands so much power. It is not enough for well intentioned people to talk about the need for peace. Peace has to be made with us, not with a "demographic problem" — and the occupation must end. Respond to what Palestinians, as the aggrieved party, propose; argue with it, modify it, suggest alternatives. But do not throw it out, any more than you would advocate throwing Palestinians off their land.

Similarly the terms of discussion (and the existence of discussion itself, not blind polemic) should be reexamined. Consider first how unyielding those terms are. The main areas of Palestinian struggle is in Palestine/Israel. But the United States is only slightly less important as a site. With their unparalleled resources, Israel's U.S. supporters have historically either ignored the Palestinians or blanketed us with a dense mass of unanswerable objections. The U.S. media, for all their fidelity to the uprising's more sensational scenes, still repeat cliché about recognition and terrorism, even as our people are simultaneously unrecognised as having sovereign rights and are terrorised by Israel.

Public discourse during the election campaign has finally registered some of the new realities, although only one candidate remains unfavourably responsible to the "sovereign Palestinian people." Yet even our friends seem unaware of our writers and scholars, our reporting and research. Instead they rely almost exclusively on evidence from Israel, as if the "agony of the occupation" were somehow worse for the kids with guns than for those with stones. As

if the preeminent issue were Israeli psychology and not the right of people to be free of endless harassment, discrimination and insecurity in their own homes.

So the challenge is to change the perspective, the language, the frameworks, even as the uprising continues. Palestinians are now recognised as principal parties to the conflict, and we will continue to act politically as central parties. Yet nothing is unilateral. We are now in a position to say yes to direct negotiations, yes to recognition of Israel, to peace, to secure borders, so long as these yeses are entirely mutual, with Israel doing the same for us.

Palestinians are a nation in exile, and certainly every one of us feels the right of return and citizenship to be inalienable, albeit in the context of reciprocal arrangements with Israel. But we cannot do this by ourselves. What Zionism was historically incapable of doing now lies before it as a challenge. Let those who sincerely believe in self-determination for Palestinians and Israelis come forward, each demanding from his own community not just a list of grievances but a forward step toward the other community.

Palestinians are uniquely placed now to lead the debate about peace — first because they are the people with the most to gain, second because they are the people doing something new and powerful. But they must be heard, not rhetorically ostracised, vilified or drowned out. What is at issue now for Israelis and Palestinians is coexistence, not extermination.

In the United States that debate can take place with special significance, since it has always been the conjunction between opinion, power and interest that has determined policy here. Hence, there is something especially ominous about Israel's decision to black out news from the occupied territories, to cut them off and to stifle facts. As Palestinians, our task is to overcome these obstacles; to reaffirm, continually clarify and sustain our political aspirations and the truth of our situation; and then to bring those into discussion, thereafter banishing all the inadmissible talk of extermination, expulsion, elimination that Israel's partisans have falsely ascribed to us.

Today's challenge is therefore nothing less than a newly resurgent, yet vulnerable, Palestinian nationalism at a particularly important moment in its long and fateful encounter with Zionism. In the United States we — Zionists and Palestinians — can at least try to represent and develop that encounter more humanely and reasonably than has been done elsewhere, and perhaps with better, more livable results — The Washington Post.

Egypt and the Non-Alignment Movement

Dr. A. Mokhtar El Gammal

The writer is acting director of the Institute for Diplomatic Studies, Cairo. The article is reprinted from the Belgrade-based Review of International Affairs.

THE PRINCIPLES of the Non-Alignment Movement have always been the cornerstone of Egypt's foreign policy. Egypt derives her belief in non-alignment from her geographical position which lies in the centre of the world, from her Arabic and Islamic heritage, her African identity and her belonging to the Third World. Also this came as a result of her bitter experiences with colonial powers, which in the end means that adherence to this policy was basically a reflection of the many roles Egypt has to assume in the world and in her relations with the outside world.

Egyptian diplomacy has worked constantly for the consolidation of the principles of the movement and its role in solving disputes among its members by peaceful means. President Hosni Mubarak's initiative in the framework of the movement to put an end to the Iran-Iraq war is an example, especially because both conflicting parties are members of the Non-Alignment Movement.

Egypt is extremely worried over the economic and severe human crisis facing Africa and the Third World in general. This crisis stems largely from present economic conditions which do not enable developing countries to enjoy just treatment, especially African countries who are unable to break the chain of underdevelopment. Egypt recognises that the real causes behind this crisis are the problems of increasing indebtedness, increasing interest rates, the sudden fluctuations in the value of currencies,

the continuing trend for protection and barriers in international trade, the drop in prices of exports of raw materials of the developing countries and the deterioration of terms of trade for these countries.

To establish a common front, based on the precedent of the Belgrade and Cairo conferences and their common action in the United Nations, the developing countries formed the Group of Seventy-Seven (G-77) to organise their efforts in the first UNCTAD. The group began as a seventy-seven cosponsors of the Joint Declaration of the Developing Countries made to the General Assembly in 1963.

During the period 1964-1970, the non-aligned countries faced a crisis of orientation which manifested itself in their inability to hold another conference. In retrospect the death of Nehru, the Sino-Indian and Sino-Soviet conflicts, the overthrow of Sukarno and the Egyptian defeat in June 1967 — all contributed to the weakening of the Non-Alignment Movement. However, the non-aligned countries were active through their participation in the Group of 77 and UNCTAD to keep a minimum degree of cohesion among the developing countries. Egypt was keen to stress this fact when it assumed the presidency of the Group of 77 in 1984.

Third World development

At the same time, Egypt spares no effort to serve the causes of the Third World and to push forward the process of economic and social development to the benefit of the peoples of the developing countries. Egypt believes that there should be ways and means to link prosperity in industrialised developed countries with efforts in poor developing countries for the benefit of

the whole world economy.

Egyptian diplomacy works for the consolidation of the principles of non-alignment in international behaviour. It has to bring about balanced relations with both the Western and Eastern camps. 1984 witnessed great strides in this regard. Egypt's policy of equidistance is based on the fact that this policy serves the interests of the Third World as long as their strategies are not identified with one of the two superpowers.

The improvement of Egyptian-Soviet relations was reflected in turn on Egypt's relations with the Socialist countries of Europe. These relations increased, either in the economic field or granting loans and technical expertise or in trade and cultural exchange.

The special relationship between Egypt and the United States, does not hinder Egyptian diplomacy from supporting the Soviet peace plan in the Middle East which proposes holding an international conference with the participation of all interested parties, which means solving the conflict through multilateralism. This support stems from Egypt's belief in the importance of participation of both the two superpowers in international peace efforts and on what could be agreed upon for final guarantees in the Middle East. An international conference might open the door for effective international cooperation between East and West, put an end to the Middle East crisis and bring stability to this part of the world.

Egypt recognises that the Middle East is an important area in the strategy of the superpowers, and will be affected positively or negatively according to relations between East and West. Egyptian diplomacy hopes for the success of international efforts aiming at lessening tensions and the avoidance of polarisation and cold war which are affecting the Mid-

dle East, and believes that non-alignment is valid in that context, and can be an effective instrument to achieve this noble goal.

The Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid sums up Egypt's belief in the Non-Alignment Movement by saying:

"The Non-Alignment Movement enters now a new stage of its triumphant history. It faced, and still faces, great challenges. And after completing its twenty-five years, it still confirms its vitality and inevitability as the only historical alternative to the policy of polarisation and blocs, and as an independent factor in international relations — based on co-existence, refusal of dependency and hegemony, fight against imperialism and aggression, and looking forward to a better world of peace, justice and freedom."

We are left with a Third World of over 120 states and in which, even leaving China's one billion, close to three billion people now live. For all the disappointments of the last decades, a new state system of independent Third World nations has come into existence and has begun, in some limited domains, to exert its power and initiative. If the old generation of independence leaders is virtually gone, there are many others in the Third World who have learned from these experiences and who remain committed to the goals enunciated three decades ago. The challenge facing them, in Asia, Africa and Latin America, remains as great as it is unavoidable.

Multilateral diplomacy

Egyptian diplomacy is well-prepared to face this challenge. Its trained staff, especially on multilateralism (multilateral diplomacy), with a long history of achievements and activity in international and regional fora, are capable under peace, to effective-

ly contribute in lessening tensions, solving problems especially of economic development and investment, which the Third World need more than disputes and wars.

The impact of multilateralism on Egypt's foreign policy was, and is still tremendous, thanks to the efficiency and international experience of a number of very efficient and experienced career diplomats. The whole apparatus of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Cairo and in Egyptian diplomatic missions in almost every capital in the world (except in South Africa, Taiwan and some very tiny newly independent states) was oriented to work, and to be as effective as possible in various international and regional fora and gatherings.

Before and after concluding the peace treaty (with Israel), the unresolved Palestinian issue was and is still the most important item in Egyptian foreign policy's priorities. In spite of the fact that this issue no more constitutes a possibility of military confrontation as Egypt is committed to peaceful settlement of any dispute, Egyptian diplomacy is adapting itself to the new circumstances, and is now using multilateralism as effectively as before, to give a momentum to the peace process, with the aim of reaching a just and durable settlement that realises for the Palestinians their legitimate rights in self-determination and achieving a separate Palestinian identity based on an independent state in the areas occupied by Israel since June 1967. The recent Palestinian uprising in the West Bank, Gaza and inside Israel itself is but a warning of the gravity of the problem if left unsolved.

Egypt's policy of non-alignment and President Mubarak's warm relations with both the superpowers and with most of the

Aab countries, were appreciated by the Palestinians. They believe that President Mubarak is in a unique position to be able to tell, feel and measure the reactions of the two parties that need to work towards a lasting peace: Israelis and Palestinians. He is one of the few influential figures in the world who are in speaking terms with both the PLO and the government of Israel. President Mubarak is, as a prominent Palestinian described him, an Arab mediator acceptable to all parties to the conflict.

In a statement before the non-aligned summit conference in New Delhi, President Mubarak stressed what he expected from the movement: The need for a very effective role of the non-aligned nations in resolving the Palestinian problem. The Non-Alignment Movement, could "render the Arab World a great service by reiterating its unwavering support for Palestinian rights and calling upon all nations to recognise them." He also urged the movement to join efforts to put an end to the wasteful conflict between Iran and Iraq.

The Non-Alignment Movement, in the Egyptian perspective, is a political expression by the Third World countries for their struggle for freedom and independence. The movement is a contribution to world peace and the reduction of tension. Egyptian diplomacy believes that it is a must to fight extremism and exaggeration inside the movement, to stop individual condemnations and slanders, to reject the concepts of natural ally or natural enemy, and to maintain and cherish the original principles and concepts laid down by its founders Nasser, Nehru and Tito. Fortunately that trend was clearly evident in the non-aligned summits both in Harare in 1986 and here in New Delhi in 1983.

Better deal for tribes and nomads on labour body agenda

By Ronald Farquhar
Reuter

GENEVA — Work begins here in June on a new deal for the world's forgotten tribes and nomadic peoples, as the march of modern civilisation increasingly threatens their lands, lifestyles and cultures.

Delegates expected from more than 120 countries will debate how better to protect American Indians, Australian Aborigines and other groups against being swallowed up or ousted from traditional homes by encroaching industry and massive influxes of outsiders.

During the three-week annual conference of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) opening in Geneva on June 1, they will launch a two-year process to revise a 1957 ILO convention on indigenous and tribal populations.

The convention, which has the force of international law and imposes binding obligations on 27 countries which ratified it, is the only international legislation ever adopted specifically to protect such groups, ranging from the Eskimos of the frozen north to the Bedouin of the Sahara desert.

The ILO, oldest specialised agency of the United Nations,

seeks to promote social justice and improve workers' conditions around the world. It is unique among U.N. bodies in that it brings together representatives of employers' associations and trade unions as well as of governments.

Tribal and indigenous populations probably total some 300 million around the world, about equal to the number of citizens in the 12-nation European Community, an ILO report prepared for the conference said.

They include the Laplanders of northern Europe, the Masai tribes and Pygmies of sub-Saharan Africa and the Hill tribes of Asia.

"These people are almost always the least protected, most exploited and most marginal of any country's population. In many — perhaps most — cases they have gradually retreated or been pushed to remote areas as others advanced into regions they previously held," the ILO said.

"They were reasonably safe there for a time, but now in many countries outsiders are encroaching into the little space left to them."

"If petroleum is discovered on land, it always seems to be in deserts, ice fields or jungles. Its exploitation means that the indigenous inhabitants have to move.

"If a hydro-electric project is built, it is usually put in the outlying areas where the tribes have taken refuge. And if a government wants to resettle residents from overcrowded areas, they are sent to the sparsely populated regions where tribal peoples live."

"This constant and increasing pressure is displacing more and more of these peoples. In the worst cases it is bringing about inter-ethnic violence and even the disappearance of entire social groups," the ILO said.

Some governments considered it harmful for indigenous or tribal peoples living alongside the rest of the national community to maintain traditional lifestyles different from the norm, it added.

"They may be forbidden to speak their own language, to educate their children in their own culture or to maintain their religion and time-honoured means of controlling their affairs."

Genocide

The ILO said there had been cases of "indisputable genocide" against indigenous and tribal populations, some as a direct result of government policies, but more often due to lack of protective action.

The report said the 1957 convention assumed that integration

of these peoples into the national community was the best way for them to advance and prosper.

But this concept had proved inadequate as it had led to extinction of ways of life different from that of the national society, and it no longer reflected current thinking.

Indigenous and tribal peoples should control as much as possible their own economic, social and cultural development through their own institutions and should be on an equal footing with the national society, the ILO said.

The 1957 convention also took a "paternalistic" attitude, assuming that these populations were culturally inferior and incapable of speaking for themselves, and that therefore governments had to decide what was best for them, it added.

These flaws in the convention appeared to be the main reason why few countries had ratified it in recent years.

"There can be no dispute that some governments have abused their powers in the past," the ILO said, adding:

"The conference must decide how effective protection against such abuses can be provided in the revised ILO standard in the light of new developments and needs that have emerged in recent years."

ADC requests suspension of U.S. tear gas sales to Israel

WASHINGTON (J.T.) — In a letter hand-delivered to Secretary of State George Shultz April 13, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) accused Israel of "improper and lethal use of American made tear gas against Palestinians" in violation of the Arms Export Control Act 22 USC which authorises the use of American defence articles "solely for internal security, for legitimate self-defence."

In the wake of widespread reports of Israeli use of tear gas in hospitals, houses of worship, schools, homes and other confined spaces resulting in more than 30 deaths and over eighty intrauterine fetal deaths, ADC President Abdeen Jabara requested that Secretary Shultz move to immediately suspend any and all export licences to U.S. manufacturers exporting tear gas to Israel.

Jabara further noted that "Israel has been using tear gas manufactured and sold from the U.S. in violation of the clear instructions provided on the canisters." Pursuant to U.S. law the clearly labelled instructions state: "Warning: May start fires. Must not be fired directly at persons as death or injury may occur. For outdoor use only."

Jabara asserted that "in at least

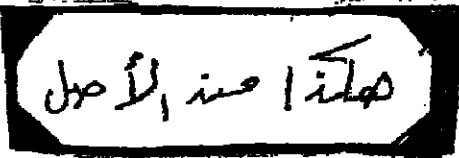
one case, a man was killed when he was directly fired upon by an Israeli soldier with a tear gas gun."

Similar requests for a suspension of tear gas shipments to Israel were simultaneously delivered to President Ronald Reagan and to William Robinson, director of the State Department's office of munitions control.

This latest action by ADC follows a meeting on March 25 with Dan McBride, president of TransTechnology, Inc., the parent company of Federal Laboratories, the manufacturer of tear gas currently being used by Israeli troops at which it was requested that the company voluntarily suspend shipments of the product to Israel.

While not agreeing to a sales embargo, the company's vice-president, Burl Allison, did, according to an April 7 Associated Press account, state that Los Angeles based TransTechnology was "redoubling (its) efforts to see that it (tear gas) is used properly."

ADC is one of several human rights groups that have planned a national demonstration April 16 outside the plant of Federal Laboratories in Saltsburg, Pa. The company is a subsidiary of TransTechnology.



U.S. speeds up escort convoy operations; Crowe on Gulf visit

BAHRAIN (AP) — The third convoy of U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti tankers in five days headed up the Gulf Tuesday as the U.S. navy strove to make up for time lost through a mine threat and a one-day mini-war with Iranian naval forces.

The convoy got under way as Admiral William H. Crowe,

chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, arrived in the Gulf to inspect navy operations and confer with Rear Admiral Anthony A. Less, commander of the joint task force Middle East, and other senior officers.

Crowe was also expected to meet with top officials of Arab governments in the Gulf to out-

line the latest change in U.S. policy that will permit American warships to respond to requests for help from non-U.S. flag vessels under attack by the Iranians. Shipping industry and government officials in general have reacted favourably to the change in the U.S. "rules of engagement."

These had previously restricted commanders to protecting only American-flagged ships and giving only "humanitarian aid" to others if requested. The latest convoy was confirmed by a U.S. military spokesman hours after shipping executives reported it sailing through the Strait of Hormuz into the Gulf for Kuwait.

It included the 294,739-ton Townsend and the 81,283-ton Sea Isle City, both oil products tankers, escorted by the destroyer Merrill and the guided missile frigate John H. Sides.

The spokesman reported "no unusual incidents" as the convoy passed through the strait.

Ship movements are not officially announced until they have passed certain danger points — in this case, the Iranian-held island of Abu Musa in the southern Gulf.

The convoy was the 28th this year and the 50th since the United States agreed last summer to reflag and escort 11 Kuwait-owned tankers to protect them from Iranian attack.

The tankers' scheduled movement had been disrupted after the missile frigate, USS Samuel B. Roberts, was severely damaged by a mine in the central Gulf April 14.

The United States retaliated four days later by destroying two Iranian oil platforms and sinking or disabling six armed vessels in day-long fighting.

The United States accused Iran of laying mines, including the one that nearly sank the 3,700-ton Roberts and wounded 10 crewmen.

The convoys resumed after American and European minesweepers found and destroyed several more mines in international shipping lanes.

Although U.S. officials in Washington denied there was any postponement, six of the 11 tankers were backed up in the convoy staging area in the Gulf of Oman.

No U.S. coast guards for Gulf

WASHINGTON (R) — The Defence Department has decided not to use U.S. coast guard ships to help protect U.S. flagged and neutral ships in the Gulf, a senior member of the Senate Armed Services committee said Monday.

Senator John Warner, a Virginia Republican, said he had received assurances from Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci that the coast guard ships would stay in U.S. waters to continue their prime mission of trying to stop illegal drug shipments.

"Senator Warner believes these ships are needed at home in fulfilling coast guard missions off the coast of the United States, particularly in interdicting illicit drug trade," Warner's office said in a statement.

"When conferring again today with Secretary Carlucci, Warner received the secretary's assurance that the proposal to utilise coast guard assets in the Persian Gulf will be withdrawn from further consideration," the statement added.

The Defence Department said last week it was considering the use of six coast guard patrol boats to protect shipping against small Iranian boats armed with missiles. The department had no comment Monday to Warner's statement.

The 110-foot coast guard boats are considered more manoeuvrable than the U.S. navy warships now on duty in the Gulf. Each coast guard cutter has a crew of 16 and is armed with a deck gun and two machine guns.

Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Paul Yost said last Thursday he would be happy to send coast guard boats and crews to the Gulf if asked to do so. But many members of Congress objected, saying drug interdiction was more important for national security.

Legislation to bar the use of the coast guard boats in the Gulf was introduced last week and may be voted on in the House of Representatives in a few days.

On Friday, the Defence Department said the navy would protect neutral ships in the Gulf from attack under certain circumstances as well as defending 11 Kuwaiti oil tankers now flying the U.S. flag.

Klibi: Arabs will blunt Israel's diplomatic offensive in Africa

DAMASCUS (R) — Arab states will work to roll back Israel's diplomatic offensive in African countries who receive massive financial aid from oil exporters, the Arab League secretary general said Tuesday.

"We need our African brothers to support us in countering brutal Israeli policies, and they need us to support their struggle against the racist regime in South Africa," Arab League Secretary

General Chadli Klibi told Reuters in an interview.

A sub-committee of a 24-member Afro-Arab ministerial committee is meeting in the Syrian capital Tuesday to discuss cooperation after a two-year freeze over the Western Sahara dispute.

Klibi said relations had also cooled after some African states renewed diplomatic ties with Israel but that Arab countries were keen to promote cooperation.

A total of 29 African states cut ties with Israel during its 1973 war when it crossed into Africa in a counter-offensive against Egypt. Many have since restored commercial links and others full diplomatic ties, including Egypt, Zaire, Liberia and Cameroon. Arab countries had given Afri-

ca \$9 billion aid in the ten years up to the end of 1977, Klibi said.

Some states had spent 1.5 per cent of their gross national product (GNP) on aid to developing countries, compared with 0.7 per cent recommended by the United Nations, he added.

Klibi said Israel had tried to persuade Africans that cooperation with Arabs brought no benefits and that Arabs were not faithful friends.

"These lies and fabrications proved false and our African brothers know well that we share the same challenges... in efforts to achieve development," he said.

Klibi said the work of the Afro-Arab Committee, set up in Cairo in 1977, had stalled when the self-proclaimed Sahara Arab democratic republic was admitted to the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1986 against Moroccan objections.

The republic is the unrecognised creation of Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas fighting Morocco for control of a former

Spanish desert territory. Klibi said the joint committee had its eighth meeting in Damascus in 1986 but a ninth scheduled for 1987 was not held.

"African, Arab problems are similar"

The committee's talks in Damascus focused on a bid to revive moribund joint cooperation between the Arab World and Africa, officials said.

"The problems and challenges which face our Arab and African countries are the same," Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shuraa told Reuters.

"We are now facing a conspiracy from the imperial forces to foil our development plans. (We must) forge a joint campaign to confront the challenges facing us, especially from the regimes of South Africa and Israel."

Shuraa chaired the meeting, attended by delegates from Congo, Sudan and Zambia and the secretary general of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) as well as Klibi.

Israeli pleads guilty to false passport charges

HONG KONG (AP) — An Israeli businessman Tuesday pleaded guilty to possessing falsified passports that newspaper reports say were used by Israeli military specialists to enter China for an arms deal.

After the plea, the defence attorney urged the judge to help the businessman get out of Hong Kong, claiming the defendant was in danger because his name was linked to the purported arms deal.

Sentencing was scheduled for Friday.

Zvi Gafni, 36, pleaded guilty to possession of five falsified Philippine passports found in his office after he was arrested Dec. 19.

The Sunday Times of London reported last month that the passports were used by a five-man team of Israeli military specialists who travelled to China in November. The newspaper said a deal was made to supply the Chinese armed forces with missile warheads and armour-piercing devices developed by Israel.

Israel and China do not have diplomatic relations.

Defence lawyer Ian Polson did not tell the court about the business conducted in China by the passport holders. He said he was in "some sort of a very difficult situation" about what information he could divulge.

Protests mar Istanbul mayor's visit to Athens

ATHENS (Agencies) — Four demonstrators were arrested Tuesday in clashes while visiting Istanbul Mayor Bedrettin Dalan was laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Around 150 American, Greek, Greek Cypriot and Kurdish protesters tried to break through a cordon of helmeted riot police standing guard for the ceremony.

"Turkey is a dictatorship," and "it's a shame for murderers to lay wreaths," the demonstrators shouted as Dalan laid the wreath of laurel and roses.

A Greek and a Greek Cypriot student were arrested as they tried to remove the wreath from the marble monument, said a police spokesman who requested anonymity.

Dalan arrived Monday for an official five-day visit to the Greek capital, returning one to Istanbul by Athens Mayor Miltiades Evert

in February. Later Dalan met with Premier Andreas Papandreu at his suburban home. Dalan was to deliver a verbal message to Papandreu from Turkish Premier Turgut Ozal, officials in his delegation said.

The exchange of mayoral visits reflects recent efforts to improve relations between their long quarrelling nations. Greece and Turkey had come to brink of war in March 1987 over oil drilling rights in the Aegean Sea.

At meetings earlier this year, Papandreu and Ozal agreed to avoid confrontation and improve bilateral economic and political relations.

The Turkish prime minister is set to pay an official visit to Athens in mid-June, and the present visit is seen as a test of how he will be received.

King: Jordan determined to live with honour and defend Arab Nation

(Continued from page 1)

in this Holy Month to meet with my brothers and companions in the long march and the long struggle against the challenges facing this country. My countrymen are not only fully aware of the dangers and the challenges, but are also fully determined to remain committed and faithful to the message upheld by our grandfathers, and the principles of the Great Arab Revolt.

Indeed, we are living through a crucial stage in the life of the Arab Nation, but we take pride in the fact that we have men faithful to their nation and determined to confront challenges and dangers by all means. We have confidence that right and justice will be victorious in the end.

In Palestine, we witness men, women, children and the old all standing together in the face of the common enemy after 20 years of Israeli occupation, proving to the world that they are true Arabs adhering to their rights and not compromising over their land.

In Iraq, on the other side of the Arab World, we see the Iraqi people and armed forces defending Arab honour and Arab land and protecting the Arab Order. We see in Iraq a determined people and a bright image in which we all take deep pride.

The Iraqis are all standing together in the face of the Iranian onslaught and invaders trying to bring faith against and so bring damage to religion which the Iraqis employ to achieve their evil purposes and establish a Persian empire at the expense of Iraq and the Arabian Peninsula with all its holy places.

The Arab Order is confronting danger on all sides, but the Arab people, armed with faith and determination and modern weapons, are prepared to defend this order with all their might.

We are proud to have thousands of men under arms — youths ready for sacrifice, backed by the People's Army and the reserves. Our Armed Forces, characterised by strict discipline, equipped with modern weapons and provided with the best training and a great faith, serve as an example for other nations.

In 1967, the battle was imposed on our nation and we had to be involved in it in true commitment to our principles and nation and to the Arab League Charter and the Joint Arab Defence Pact since we believe that danger threatening any part of the Arab land is posed against us all. If the battle is imposed on the Arabs then we all have to fight and defend our land.

Achievements

On the domestic front, we have realised a great deal but still there is a great difference between us and the

Israeli enemy confronting us. This enemy continues to receive unlimited material and moral support and backing and continues to enjoy assistance of every kind.

In contrast, our resources are limited and few, but we are armed with determination, resolve and faith to live with honour and defend our land and carry out our duty serving future generations.

Let me mention some of our achievements: In 1953, there were 950 schools in Jordan, but now we have a total of 3,566 schools. The number of students was 169,000 in 1953 compared with 963,000 in 1988; the number of teachers was 5,081 some 35 years ago, rising to 42,532 in 1988. At present we have 57 community colleges with 31,157 students and four universities with 30,000 students.

The Ministry of Education's budget was JD 383,000 in 1953 and now it is JD 82 million.

In addition, hospitals now number 530, up from 55 in 1953, health centres 473, up from 59. In 1953, there were 185 doctors in Jordan but now they are 4,838 and the number of nurses jumped from 474 to 1,898 during this period.

In 1953 there were 19 municipal councils in Jordan with 20 per cent of the population receiving water and electricity, compared to 611 councils today with 96 per cent receiving water and electricity.

Jordan now has 5,680 kilometres of asphalted roads, compared with 995 kilometres 35 years ago, and 25,400 companies with a total capital of JD 2.1 billion, up from 754 companies in 1953. Jordan's exports in 1953 amounted to JD 1.3 million compared to JD 248 million this year. The country's gross domestic product was JD 50 million compared to JD 1696 million at present; the gross national product

was JD 51 million in 1953 but it is JD 1,839 million at present.

The number of banks in Jordan is now 18 with 274 branches, up from three banks with 13 branches, while income from tourism has jumped to JD 190 million, up from JD 1.3 million 35 years ago.

The country's budget was JD 13.4 million in 1953, rising to JD 1,575 million today, and the population in the East Bank, which was 586,000 is now 3.85 million. These figures give you an idea about the achievements of the Jordanian family over the past 35 years.

In my meetings with your brothers in different governorates I talked about the need for unity and the need to be constantly alert to the dangers confronting us. This country hosts Arab Jordanian people regardless of their country of origin and they all have equal rights and shoulder equal responsibility towards the Kingdom. All this people will remain steadfast and continue to support the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. We have to go on with our endeavours to preserve Jordan as a shield preventing all attempts to cause a breach in our midst.

All citizens of this country, whether Palestinians or Jordanians, have equal rights and equal responsibilities as they all belong to the Jordanian family and the same Arab Nation. By being a citizen of this country any Palestinian will by no means forfeit his rights in his homeland. A final solution for the Palestine problem should be just and fair and honourable and acceptable to future generations. But we can never allow this country to serve as an alternative homeland for Palestine and the Palestinians, who have their own right in their

own Palestinian homeland, and we will continue to support the Palestinians with all our might and with all means available to us to enable them to regain their rights and their land.

We must warn against all the evil attempts against the unity of this people and against its steadfastness. We live on this land like a united family striving to achieve our common national goals and doing our duty as best as we can to support our brothers and kinsmen now striving to regain their right in Palestine and in Jerusalem. We will not allow our enemy to cause us harm or achieve his goal.

Our enemy is trying to present the Palestine problem as one of a people without land and searching for some land to settle on. We in Jordan are among the vanguard supporters of the Palestinians in their struggle to regain their land in Palestine.

On this basis we are demanding an international conference which would implement U.N. Security Council Resolutions 338 and 242 and a settlement of the Palestine problem in all its aspects. The Palestinian people should be represented in all negotiations and we insist that the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the legitimate representative of the Palestinians, should play its role through this called-for conference.

We are ready to attend the conference either as an independent party and will not represent the Palestinians or act on their behalf but we are ready to be present also within a joint delegation.

We must at the same time continue our preparedness and build our military strength to face any eventuality. We will back our brothers in all parts of the Arab World because we share with all Arabs the same aspirations and the same goals.

Tuesday's iftar hosted by the King was held at Al Hussein Youth City for officials and notables from Amman Governorate. The banquet was attended by speakers and members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, former prime ministers, ex-ministers, cabinet members, secretaries general of the ministries, directors general of government depart-

ments, directors of various corporations, members of the Greater Amman Council, Muslim scholars and Christian clergymen, chairmen of municipal and village councils, chairmen and members of professional trade unions, and the Amman Chambers of Industry and Trade, retired servicemen, tribal leaders and notables of refugee camps.

Also attending the banquet were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid, and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

Sheikh Saad to visit U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House announced Monday that Kuwait's prime minister, Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, would visit Washington in July for talks U.S. officials said would focus on the Iran-Iraq war and the volatile situation in the Gulf.

A White House statement said Saad had accepted President Reagan's invitation to visit Washington from July 10-14. The statement said Saad would meet the president July 12 but gave no further details.

An administration official said details of the visit had yet to be worked out but they said the situation in the Gulf region, where Iran and Iraq have waged war since September 1980, would likely dominate the talks.

The official, who spoke on condition he not be identified, said the visit was "an outgrowth of our close bilateral relationship."

"They have been working closely with us on a number of issues. They have supported us at the U.N. in our efforts to end the war in the Gulf... (and been) very supportive in aiding U.S. forces in the region," the official said.

Last July, Reagan decided to place 11 Kuwaiti tankers under the protection of the U.S. flag and American warships have since then escorted at least 48 convoys of the re-registered vessels up and down the Gulf, to and from Kuwait.

Last week, the administration widened its role in the Gulf, announcing U.S. forces would under limited circumstances come to the aid of neutral shipping under attack in the waterway through which much of the world's oil flows.

That decision followed a day of unprecedented clashes in the Gulf between U.S. and Iranian forces two weeks ago.

The Reagan administration has also been pressing the United Nations to adopt a resolution calling for an international arms embargo against whichever side in the Gulf war refuses to accept a U.N.-mediated ceasefire.

The official said Saad would meet several cabinet officials, possibly including Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci and Secretary of State George Shultz, and hold talks with leading congressmen during his four-day official visit.

The Kuwaiti embassy said Saad, who has been prime minister for more than 10 years and as crown prince is Kuwait's heir apparent, has never visited Washington before, either in a private or official capacity.

Dillon named to head Amideast

WASHINGTON (J.T.) — The board of directors of Amideast has announced the appointment of Robert S. Dillon, deputy director general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), to the position of president effective Oct. 1, 1988. As president, Dillon will be chief executive officer of Amideast, a non-profit organisation which for 37 years has been cultivating friendship and understanding between Middle Easterners and Americans through education, training, and information programmes. He will succeed Orin D. Parker, who is retiring after 28 years of service, the last 10 as president.

Prior to his present position with UNRWA where he has the personal rank of U.N. assistant secretary general, Dillon had a

distinguished career as a foreign service officer until his voluntary retirement with the rank of career minister. His last foreign service assignment was as ambassador to Lebanon from June 1981 through October 1983. Other recent assignments were as deputy chief of mission in Egypt, Turkey, and Malaysia. He has also served at the Department of State as director of Turkish affairs and as special assistant to undersecretaries for political affairs Charles Bohlen and U. Alexis Johnson. Dillon received his bachelor's degree from Duke University with subsequent study in economics and Middle East Studies at Princeton University. He and his wife, the former Caroline Sue Burch, have five children.

Founded in 1951 as American Friends of the Middle East, Amideast is headquartered in Washington, D.C. with offices in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, North Yemen, Syria, Tunisia, and the West Bank and Gaza.

Over the past 30 years, the organisation has been especially concerned with providing services to governments and educational institutions that help meet the needs of Middle Eastern and North African countries.

Albert Sims, chairman of Amideast, said: "Ambassador Dillon has demonstrated in a record of outstanding achievement, the capacity for promoting friendly and helpful relations with the countries of the Middle East. We are confident he will provide Amideast the continued strong leadership that will be even more important in the years ahead."

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5- Cry Freedom	17- Maurice
6- Police Academy 5	18- Fatal Attraction
7- Batteries Are Not Included	19- From The Hip
8- Broadcast News	20- North Shore
9- Planes, Trains & Automobiles	21- Hidden
10- Good Morning Vietnam	22- Russkies
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AMMAN JORDAN

King Hussein

CBJ calms panicky market

By Salameh Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — U.S. dollar holders amassed windfall profits over Monday and Tuesday and some bargain hunters had their fingers burnt as dollar prices soared and plummeted in the local market.

A relatively high demand for the U.S. dollar here Monday caused panic as banks and moneychangers scrambled to buy foreign currencies, raising the dollar's value by about six per cent.

The panic subsided Tuesday as the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) intervened to stabilise the dollar, bringing its value from a Monday high of 370 fils to about 350 fils Tuesday. It was anticipated to reach 400 fils.

"It was a quiet market today," said Jordan Investment and Finance Director General Bassel Jardaneh Tuesday. "Nothing

compared to yesterday." According to Jardaneh, the CBJ had stopped offering foreign currency to commercial banks for about 10 days until Monday when these banks panicked and scrambled to buy foreign currencies in an unorganised manner.

"The central bank intervened and stopped the dollar hike bringing its value down by a substantial amount," Jardaneh told the Jordan Times. "The market has been stabilised," he added.

Jardaneh hinted that an industrial crisis involving Jordanian exports to Iraq may have had indirectly influenced the brief insta-

bility in currency prices against the Jordanian dinar.

"There had been some uncertainty in the market," he said, "but it has been stabilised in a good manner."

He said the CBJ may have had deliberately allowed the short instability as a test of market forces, but there was no way to immediately get a CBJ response.

Salfiti Securities' chief dealer Foad Batshon said the dollar price fluctuation was a simple reaction to a supply and demand market. He said that the CBJ intervened Tuesday in heavy volumes, restoring the dollar to near its value before the Monday hike.

"There is no more panic in the market," Batshon said describing the market Tuesday.

"Everybody was shocked yesterday," he said. "It was a healthy move by the central bank to intervene."

Jardaneh anticipates the dol-

lar's selling rate Wednesday to hover around the 355 fils mark.

According to financial dealers contacted by the Jordan Times, the CBJ move restored dealers' confidence in its ability to stabilise the money market and control instabilities in a swift manner. But reports of low foreign exchange reserves at the central bank continue to cause uncertainties among dealers, according to the financial dealers.

A government announcement on Monday that it will not finance Jordanian exports to Iraq in excess of a \$185 million ceiling allocated in a Jordanian-Iraqi trade protocol may also be a cause of concern. Jordanian exporters have nearly \$300 million worth of opened letters of credit that remain to be settled outside the trade protocol with Iraq, pending further negotiations between the Jordanian and Iraqi governments.

Phosphate output falls

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) produced a total of 1,490,254 tonnes of phosphate from the Al Hassa and Wadi Al Abiad mines in the first quarter of 1988 compared with 1,527,986 tonnes in the same period last year, according to a JPMC report.

It said that the company is following a production and marketing policy set by JPMC's board of directors in its final report of 1987.

This policy, it added, takes into account the amounts of stored phosphate at the company's warehouses and the needs of the export market.

AMO allows apple imports

AMMAN (Petra) — According to a monthly bulletin issued by the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO), Jordanian merchants and farmers can export all types of fruits and vegetables during the month of May and can also import all types during the

same month with the exception of sage and dates.

The bulletin said that Jordan will continue importing apples this month through the Jordanian Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company.

IDEC starts project in Mafraq

MAFRAQ (Petra) — The Irbid District Electricity Company (IDEC) has started installing transformer stations and laying cables for the electrification of a cluster of villages in Mafraq district at the cost of JD 110,000. The project also entails high

voltage cables and distribution networks.

The IDEC earlier supplied electricity to Deir Al Kahf, Jabha, Harara in the same governorate at the cost of JD 220,000.

Eurostat reports 2.4% growth in EC in 1987

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — The economies of the 12 European Community (EC) nations grew by an estimated 2.4 per cent in 1987, the EC statistics agency Eurostat reported Monday.

In its latest forecast for 1987, it said this compared with 2.9 per cent for the United States and 3.7 per cent for Japan, the EC's biggest trading partners.

In the fourth quarter of 1987, it said, the EC economy grew by 2.4 per cent, compared with 5.7 per cent and 2.6 per cent in the third and second quarters.

Unemployment in the EC fell by 1.8 per cent from March 1987 to March 1988, Eurostat said.

It said this was due largely to a 17.5 per cent drop in Britain and a 7.4 per cent drop in Belgium.

But other EC members saw the ranks of their jobless grow during that 12-month period, including Italy (up 8.6 per cent), Spain (6

per cent), Denmark (3.9 per cent) and West Germany (1.1 per cent).

Inflation in the EC rose on average by 2.6 per cent in the 12-month period through March, down from three per cent a year earlier.

The EC's inflation rate thus remained below the 3.9 per cent for the United States, but well above Japan's 0.6 per cent for the 12 months to March.

The EC balance of payments registered a surplus of 25 billion European Currency Units (ECUs) (\$31 billion) for the first nine months of 1987, Eurostat said, down 10.8 billion ECUs (\$13.4 billion) compared with the same 1986 period.

Eurostat said this was largely due to a 16 per cent drop in the EC's surplus of manufactured goods.

Kremlin grants Estonia wider economic autonomy

MOSCOW (R) — The ruling Soviet Politburo has approved proposals by the Estonian government to give the Baltic republic far greater autonomy in managing its economy.

But the decision, outlined in the Estonian Communist Party newspaper Sovetskaya Estonia, fell short of demands by Estonian intellectuals to give the small but prospering republic total control over its economy.

The newspaper's April 30 edition, which reached Moscow

Monday, said the Politburo had agreed to hand over seven key economic sectors to Estonian management.

"Seven state committees will be created — for industry, fuel and energy, transport, public services, education, culture, forestry and the environment," the daily said.

But it quoted Estonian Prime Minister Bruno Saul as saying the measures should be regarded as a first stage in transferring management control from Moscow.

U.S. factory orders rise

WASHINGTON (R) — Factory orders rose a sharp 1.6 per cent in March, the largest increase in three months, the U.S. Commerce Department said Monday.

In addition, U.S. construction spending rose 1.5 per cent in March while productivity in the non-farm sector, which measures each worker's output, rose at an annual rate of 0.9 per cent in the first three months of the year.

The clutch of statistics, which were consistent with other figures released recently, point to a continuation of the economic expansion, now in its 66th month, at least through the end of this election year, economists said.

In addition to the 1.6 per cent increase in March orders, which dwarfed forecasts of a 0.3 per cent rise, the Commerce Department revised February's figures to show no change from January's level instead of the 0.8 per cent drop it originally estimated.

After reducing orders and output early in the year to work off unwanted inventories accumulated after October's stock market crash curtailed consumer spending, businesses were ordering strongly again in March.

Orders rose \$3.43 billion to a seasonally adjusted \$216.08 billion.

Excluding the volatile category of defence equipment, factory orders increased 1.0 per cent in March after rising 0.3 per cent in February, the Commerce Department said.

The government said order increases for primary metals, non-electrical machinery and transport equipment, which includes cars and aircraft, offset a drop in communication equipment and other electrical machinery.

Economy in Iraq improves

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's economy, which faltered in the 1986 oil price collapse, has recovered partly because the war with Iran has forced President Saddam Hussein to streamline a bloated bureaucracy and boost efficiency.

Even so, Iraq is barely managing to keep pace with a war-incurred foreign debt of at least \$35 billion, diplomats say. The 7½-year-old war is believed to cost about \$10 billion a year.

Oil prices are firmer, Iraqi oil exports are climbing and Saddam has sold off inefficient state-owned enterprises in a programme aimed at revitalising the private sector, long suppressed by Iraq's heavy-handed socialist policies.

All this has helped reassure Iraq's many creditors, who last year had to reschedule the country's debt repayments because the Iraqis did not have enough cash. The socialist government's decision last year to loosen its grip on prices and foreign exchange has helped reduce once-chronic shortages — but at a painful cost for many of Iraq's 15 million people.

There are few of the long lines of shoppers stretching from the doors of nearly empty stores, despite heavy subsidies on essential goods, that were seen in 1986. But meat, which used to cost 5 or 6 dinars a kilogramme (\$7.50-\$9 a pound), now goes for 6-7 dinars (\$9-\$10.50 a pound).

Bread, rice and cooking oil remain subsidised. But a package of 30 eggs that once cost 1.30 dinars (\$4.30) now sells for at least 2.50 dinars (\$8.30).

Even the cost of candy bars has risen, from 80 fils (25 cents) to 300 fils (nearly \$1).

These are steep prices for civil servants earning 90 to 150 dinars (\$135 to \$225) a month, or sol-

diers on 75 dinars (\$112.50) a month.

Many Iraqis have found their pay squeezed further this year by increased working hours in essential industries and ministries, making the common practice of moonlighting to make ends meet nearly impossible.

It's still difficult to find many goods at subsidised official prices, forcing Iraqis into the costly black market for car parts or cigarettes, for example.

But diplomats and other sources ruled out the possibility that tightly controlled Iraq could see the sort of bread riots that forced Egypt and Tunisia to retreat from officially sanctioned price rises in recent years.

The variety on the vegetable stands is only the most visible sign of Iraq's move away from 20 years of strict socialist controls on the economy.

The government told businessmen last year they could import goods with foreign currency, with few questions asked about how they got the money.

Planning Minister Samal Ma-

jeed Faraj said last week that Iraq will allow Arabs from other countries to invest in Iraq with guarantees against government seizure of their assets.

In the past year, the government has sold off bus companies, poultry farms, dairies, gas stations and supermarkets and other businesses and is trying to get outside investors to buy a stake in Iraqi Airways, the national flag carrier.

A whole layer of bureaucracy has been stripped from some sectors of the economy, making state-owned companies directly responsible to government ministries.

In another effort to boost efficiency, Saddam abolished labour laws that had guaranteed employment.

Diplomats said the reforms, the most sweeping economic changes in two decades, were aimed at stripping the fat that had slowed economic progress and to coax people to invest savings.

But a European diplomat said many private businesses remain wary of investing in Iraq.

Japan's current account, trade surpluses decline

TOKYO (AP) — Surging imports pushed Japan's foreign trade surplus down more than \$7 billion in fiscal 1987 to \$94.28 billion, the finance ministry announced Monday.

The trade surplus for the fiscal year, which ended March 31, was 7.2 per cent below the record \$101.65 billion surplus set the previous year, and the first decline since Japan's foreign trade began registering a surplus in 1981, a ministry official said.

The country's current account surplus also plunged almost \$10 billion during the fiscal year for its first decline in six years, the ministry said.

The current account is the broadest measure of a nation's commerce, including trade in goods and services as well as capital transfers. The ministry said the current account surplus registered \$84.54 billion in fiscal 1987, down from \$94.14 billion the previous year.

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

The Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief, Swellevh cordially invites the public to a Photo exhibition at its Centre in Swellevh to mark the National Week for the Mentally Retarded in combination with 20 years of services in this field in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

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AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for May 3, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	166046	JD 264074	293
Top three companies:			
Arab Bank Ltd.	330	JD 37953	14
National Steel Industries	12550	JD 35200	20
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	20300	JD 36735	40
Parallel market:	6234	JD 2587	—
Development bonds:	—	—	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—
Other debentures:	—	—	—

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.8710/20	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2320/30	Canadian dollar
	1.6771/78	Deutschemarks
	1.8803/08	Dutch guilders
	1.3955/65	Swiss francs
	35.07/10	Belgian francs
	5.6980/7030	French francs
	1248/1249	Italian lire
	124.75/85	Japanese yen
	5.8750/8800	Swedish crowns
	6.1620/70	Norwegian crowns
	6.4680/4730	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	444.50/445.00	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Shares closed weaker on low volumes, pulled down by falls in international gold and crude oil prices. The All Ordinaries index fell 11.1 to 1,444.7.

TOKYO — Market closed for Constitution Day holiday.

HONG KONG — Prices closed slightly higher on light bargain hunting but trading remains sluggish in the absence of new incentives. The Hang Seng Index rose 12.71 to 2,602.6.

SINGAPORE — Prices eased in the afternoon to close narrowly mixed on lack of support and sporadic profit-taking in moderate trading. The Straits Times Industrial Index rose 2.95 to 968.89.

BOMBAY — Prices dropped sharply on a broad front under heavy profit-taking influenced by end-account later this week.

FRANKFURT — Prices closed sharply lower amid growing fears that the market has seen its best levels for some time and further losses may be in store, dealers said. The Commerzbank Index, calculated at mid-session, fell 15.1 to 1,346.2.

ZURICH — Prices closed narrowly mixed with a weaker bias in thin and lacklustre trading. The Swiss Index fell three points to 819.9.

PARIS — Prices ended near their highs, boosted by takeover bid speculation and demand for several groups that posted good 1987 results last week. The Bourse Indicator rose 0.39 per cent.

LONDON — Stocks were mixed, with prices off their highs after a lacklustre Wall Street start. The FTSE-100 index at 1515 GMT was up three at 1,805.2.

NEW YORK — Wall Street stocks were slightly higher in quiet morning trading. The Dow Jones industrial average was up four at 2,047.

Mecom celebrates 10th anniversary

MANAMA (Agencies) — In January 1989 Mecom will celebrate its 10th anniversary as the leading telecommunications and computer exhibition serving the Middle East market.

Over the past ten years Mecom has established an enviable reputation as the only event which attracts visitors from throughout the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states. In 1987, over 22 per cent of the 4,750 visitors came from outside Bahrain and many manufacturers now look to Mecom as the essential biennial showcase for the Middle East.

Mecom's organisers, Arabian Exhibition Management (AFM), plan to mark this milestone in the history of the event with a show which will consolidate its reputation as the leading regional telecommunications exhibition and set the direction for its development for the next decade.

Brendaa Jennings's AFM's chief executive, said: "We anticipate an even broader representation of manufacturers in the telecommunications and computer industry at Mecom 89 and we are currently planning a major conference in association with the show."

Space applications for Mecom 89, which takes place in Bahrain 23-26 January 1989, are already showing a healthy increase on 1987, and options for national groups have already been received from Canada, Finland and Great Britain.

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PLAZA

MAD MISSION

Performances: 3:20, 5:15, 8:45, 10:45

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Multi-party Angola talks open in London

LONDON (R) — The opposing sides in Angola's 13-year-old war began unprecedented peace talks in a London hotel Tuesday and delegates described their first negotiating session as friendly and constructive.

Delegations from South Africa, Angola, Cuba and the United States met for two hours in a basement conference room for the first such talks in the history of the Angolan war.

"The atmosphere was very cordial. Everything is going according to plan," South African diplomat Justus de Goede told reporters after the opening session of the two days of talks.

A second session was planned in the afternoon.

South African Deputy Foreign Minister Neil van Heerden said before the talks started that his country had an "exploratory and open" attitude to the negotiations, which will focus on the withdrawal of foreign troops from Angola and independence for South African-ruled Namibia.

"We have come to London to see if there is an opening of the

diplomatic window in search of peace in southern Africa," Van Heerden said. But he warned against "over-heated expectations."

Diplomats in London following the talks were also cautious about the prospects of a settlement but expressed satisfaction that the four principal participants in the Angolan conflict were sitting down at the negotiating table for the first time.

The meeting was chaired by the U.S. delegation led by the State Department's top Africa expert, Chester Crocker. He sat with his aides at the head of a three-sided negotiating table in the conference room which also contained a small blackboard.

The South African and Angolan delegations faced each other, Angolan Foreign Minister Afonso

so van Dunem flanked by Cuban representative Jorge Risquet.

The Soviet Union, Angola's main political backer and supplier of military hardware, has said it supports the four-party peace negotiations but has no active role to play.

Military chiefs from South Africa, Angola and Cuba attended the talks, reflecting the strategic play of forces in Angola, where Soviet- and Cuban-backed government forces are battling South African troops and their U.S.-supported Angolan rebel allies.

Present was Angolan Chief of Staff Colonel Antonio dos Santos Franco "Ndalu," the Cuban head of the joint chiefs of staff, Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, and South African army chief Jannie Geldenhuys.

Angola's oil-rich economy crippled by the war waged on its soil since it became independent from Portugal in 1975, is offering to withdraw the estimated 40,000 Cuban troops stationed on its soil, a move long sought by Pretoria and Washington.

In return, Angola wants independence for Namibia, the withdrawal of South African troops from its southern provinces and an end to U.S. and South African support for UNITA rebels fighting to topple the Luanda government.

UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) and the Namibian nationalist group SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organisation) were not invited to the talks.

UNITA's spokesman in London, Colonel Jardo Muekalia, said his organisation was not upset at not being invited but hoped the meeting would lead to direct negotiations with the Angolan government — something the government has ruled out.

"We will be kept informed. If they achieve the withdrawal of the Cubans and the South Africans, that will be in our interest," Muekalia said.

EEC urges Hanoi to enter talks with Sihanouk

DUESSELDORF (R) — The European Economic Community (EEC) urged Vietnam Tuesday to enter direct peace talks with Kampuchean exile leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk to secure a pull-out of Hanoi's 100,000 troops from his country.

"Peace and stability in South East Asia can be restored only through the cessation of hostilities and of foreign military occupation of Kampuchea," the EEC and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) said in a joint communiqué issued after a two-day meeting of foreign ministers.

"The ministers... appeal to Vietnam to join Prince Sihanouk in peace talks," it said.

It was the first time that the EEC, seeking a larger role in world politics, publicly endorsed Sihanouk's peace campaign.

The EEC was heading a strong appeal by ASEAN — Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Brunei — for community backing in their search for a neutral Kampuchea under guarantees by the U.N. Security Council.

Sihanouk, who until being ousted in 1970 ruled what was then Cambodia for 29 years, heads a coalition of three guerrilla groups.

After peace talks in Paris with the Phnom Penh government last January, Sihanouk is insisting on face-to-face talks with Vietnam, whose troops have occupied Kampuchea since 1978.

The Vietnamese invasion toppled the Khmer Rouge regime,

which in three years killed hundreds of thousands of people.

The preponderant role of Prince Sihanouk in the settlement of the Kampuchean problem would promote the various interests of all parties concerned," the communiqué said.

The seventh EEC-ASEAN conference also called on Hanoi to attend a Kampuchea conference which ASEAN wants to convene in Jakarta. "For a political solution Vietnam's participation is indispensable," the communiqué said.

The EEC also pledged to deny Hanoi any economic assistance that would "sustain and enhance the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea." The community has not replied to a request by Hanoi last year for formal diplomatic relations.

West German Foreign Minister

Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who initiated EEC-ASEAN contacts years ago, said the accord on a Soviet pull-out from Afghanistan spelled hope for Kampuchea.

"We wish that, after the agreement on the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, other international crises also can be solved by joint efforts, especially Kampuchea," Genscher told a news conference.

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Thousands rush to meet U.S. amnesty deadline

HOUSTON (AP) — Thousands of undocumented aliens armed with lawn chairs, ice chests and toys queued outside the nation's busiest Immigration Office Monday to apply for amnesty just two days before the unprecedented programme's deadline.

Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) officials hired police officers to control crowds and traffic, and brought in portable toilets to ease the wait.

"This is an incredible amount of activity," Regional INS Commissioner Mario Ortiz said. "The pace is really phenomenal, particularly in Dallas and Houston."

The 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act allows aliens who can prove continuous residency in the United States since Jan. 1, 1982, to apply for legal status by midnight Wednesday. The filing fee is \$185 for adults and \$50 for children, with a family limit of \$420.

Many of the 2,000 applicants processed by noon Monday had camped out since Sunday evening to be at the head of the line, said Richard Rios, director of the centre.

"I really didn't know what to do," Zeerak Khan, 20, of Pakistan, said as he waited in the line. "That's why I waited until the last minute."

Officials planned to deal with the last-minute rush by keeping offices in the 13-state southern region open from Tuesday morning straight through to the midnight Wednesday deadline, Ortiz said. They also were waiving interviews with applicants until after the deadline.

People turning in applications Monday received a receipt, temporary work authorisation num-

ber and an interview date, in many cases not until November.

The INS' latest figures show that as of Saturday, more than 1.3 million aliens had applied for amnesty at 107 INS offices nationwide, Ortiz said. The total is near the agency's planning estimate, he added.

In Houston, Marcelino Crespo Vargas said he finally got the documentation to prove he had been living and working in nearby Dayton for 16 years.

"I've been living here so long. I've got nothing to go back to in Mexico," said the 34-year-old gardener from Salamanca, Mexico.

Sam Urueme, 28, a chef from Nigeria, said he wants to become an American citizen "mainly to come and go as I please. To take advantage of making a good living and starting a business, hopefully a restaurant."

Sri Lankan students boycott exams; blast kills 3

COLOMBO (AP) — A majority of students boycotted final examinations at two universities Tuesday to protest the detention of more than 100 students by Sri Lankan police.

Meanwhile, police said three people, including two students, were killed Monday night when a bomb exploded accidentally in the town of Peradeniya in central Sri Lanka. Two students were injured in the blast.

Ganini Gunawardene, deputy inspector-general of police in nearby Kandy, said police suspected the students planned to use the bomb to disrupt examinations at the university in Peradeniya.

An official at the Ministry of

Education said only 30 students sat for exams out of 525 scheduled to take the tests at the Colombo University.

In Ruhuna in the south, said the official, who insisted on anonymity.

But in Peradeniya, the apparent bomb target, 74 of the 78 students scheduled for exams showed up.

The boycott had been called by two student groups, the Inter-University Students Federation and the Independent Students Union, to demand release of the detained students. Under Sri Lanka's anti-terrorism law, people can be held for up to 18 months without charge or trial.

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Afghan Mujahedeen intensify rocket attacks

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan guerrillas fired more rockets into Kabul last week than in any other week of the year, Western diplomats in Pakistan said Tuesday.

The attacks from April 25 to May 1 coincided with 10th anniversary celebrations of a 1978 coup d'état that brought the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan to power.

One rocket slammed into a street near President Najibullah's palace and two diplomatic residences were hit in other

attacks, a diplomat said. He did not say exactly how close the attack on the palace came.

"A preliminary count indicates at least 13 separate rocket attacks, mostly multiple, the largest number of attacks recorded for any week this year," one diplomat said, quoting information from Afghanistan.

The diplomats said Moscow appeared to be keeping up copious arms supplies to the Kabul government before beginning to withdraw an estimated 115,000

troops on May 15.

The Soviet Union is ending its eight-and-a-half year intervention under an accord signed in Geneva last month aimed at creating conditions for peace in Afghanistan.

Western and Arab-backed Mujahedeen took no part in the accord and want to keep fighting to topple Najibullah.

"Throughout the week, there has been a high level of Soviet troop activity (in and around Kabul), both combat units and supply convoys," one diplomat said.

Giving examples, the diplomats said a 150-vehicle combat unit including armoured personnel carriers and self-propelled heavy guns was observed leaving Kabul April 28.

Two days later a supply convoy of 100 trucks left the city for the north while 285 trucks and armoured vehicles arrived back from the southern city of Gardez.

Many of the convoys travelled south, continuing a military build-up in areas close to the Pakistani border.

Diplomats have said the convoys were aimed at stopping the Pakistan-based guerrillas making a big push towards the capital when Soviet troops withdraw from the south.

The diplomats described traffic at Kabul airport as heavy. Helicopter gunships flights south had increased sharply.

Kabul-based Soviet officials were quoted as saying Najibullah would try to hold on to the southern cities of Jalalabad, Kandahar, Gardez and Ghazni after Soviet troops withdrew, the diplomats said.

But the president was prepared to "write off" the southern part of Kandahar province, which borders Pakistan, the officials were reported as saying.

Meanwhile an envoy of Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi arrived in Islamabad Tuesday saying he would discuss the Afghan issue with Pakistani leaders.

Foreign Secretary K.P.S. Menon told reporters his main interest in formal talks with the Pakistani counterpart Abdul Sattar would be the discussions on Afghanistan.

Menon was also due to meet President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo.

Pakistan had put off a visit by Menon at the beginning of March after Zia turned down an invitation from Gandhi to go to New Delhi for talks on the Afghan war.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

U.S. downplays arms sales report

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States Monday played down a confidential report on proposed 1988 arms sales, saying many of the suggested deals would never happen. State Department spokesman Charles Redman said the administration was required each year to submit to Congress a report outlining all arms sales considered "eligible for approval" during the calendar year. "Since the law requires inclusion of all sales which may be approved — many of which will not, in fact, be consummated — it would be wrong to characterise it in any way as a sales plan or to attribute any significance to changes in dollar amounts from one year to another," he told reporters.

Zia to visit China this month

PEKING (R) — Pakistan's President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq will visit China at the end of May for a trip expected to focus on the planned withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, Asian diplomats said Tuesday. Pakistan and China are close allies and support Afghan rebels in their eight-year-old war against Soviet forces backing the Kabul government. Zia visited China in October 1982. The exact dates of his visit are expected to be officially announced this week, diplomats said.

Bangladesh lifts ban on BBC

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh lifted a ban Tuesday which it imposed four months ago on the operations of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in Dhaka. "The ban on the BBC is hereby lifted," Information Minister Mahbubur Rahman told journalists. The government banned the BBC Dec. 12 at the height of a campaign by major opposition parties to topple President Hossain Mohammad Ershad. It accused the BBC of "hostile and tendentious propaganda against Bangladesh... which is tantamount to sedition," expelled a visiting BBC correspondent and jailed a local part-time correspondent for two weeks. The BBC denied the charges.

New York hostage drama ends peacefully

NEW YORK (AP) — An armed man apparently distraught over losing custody of his two children took 15 people hostage Monday at an office building in the city's financial district, but released them within several hours and then surrendered. Police said 14 of the hostages slipped away when he let them go to the bathroom, make photocopies or run other errands. "When the last man was there, he (the gunman) turned to him and said, 'OK, you can go too,'" a police spokeswoman said. The hostages were apparently unharmed, authorities said. The man, identified as Bill Saunders and believed to be a former employee of American Telephone and Telegraph (AT and T), went to the 25th floor of the AT and T building looking for his former wife, Geraldine.

Reagan signs resolution over Ukraine

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan signed a Senate resolution Monday deploring alleged persecution by the Soviet government of religious believers in the Ukraine. The resolution, approved by a voice vote, urges the United States to refrain from participating in ceremonies marking the millennium of Christianity in the Soviet Union if "religious persecution" persists. Last Friday, Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev condemned past anti-religious repression and called for a more tolerant attitude towards religion.

Carbide reportedly files appeal

NEW DELHI (AP) — Union Carbide Corporation Monday appealed a court order to pay \$192 million as temporary relief to victims of the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster, the United News of India (UNI) news agency reported. But Carbide said no appeal had been filed. Earl Slack, a spokesman for the U.S.-based multinational, said in Connecticut that Carbide had asked the court to review and correct factual record on which its ruling was based. About 3,000 people died and more than 20,000 were injured in the Dec. 3, 1984 gas leak.

Marcos' dying mother asks to see her son

MANILA (R) — The ailing 95-year-old mother of deposed Philippine strongman Ferdinand Marcos made an appeal from her deathbed Tuesday for her son to be allowed home from exile.

In a plea which is fraught with political difficulties for the government, Josefa Edralin Marcos wrote to President Corazon Aquino as "one mother to another," calling on her to grant "my dying wish, the one thing that will put a smile upon my lips when I leave this world to see my Ferdinand by my bedside."

Marcos, who is not permitted to leave his exile in Hawaii, told relatives by telephone he wanted to return to the Philippines to see his mother who appeared close to death in a Manila hospital.

"We're trying our best to keep her alive," Dr. Sergio Brillantes said. "She is very, very sick."

Doctors said Mrs. Marcos was comatose and her deteriorating condition was not responding to treatment. She was admitted to a Manila hospital two days ago suffering from pulmonary infections, fever and diabetes.

In a strongly Roman Catholic country where family ties and honouring the dead are considered paramount, the plea by the ousted former president to return seemed likely to leave Aquino stuck for options.

Aquino told reporters she would take up Mrs. Marcos' appeal with her cabinet crisis committee Wednesday. Marcos' mother made the plea in a letter

signed with her thumbprint and witnessed by two nurses before she lapsed into a coma.

Armed Forces Chief General Renato De Villa suggested security problems could be raised by allowing the return of the man who ruled the country for 20 years before his overthrow in February 1986.

Officials and diplomats polled by Reuters said it would be personally and politically difficult for Aquino to refuse. But it would be almost impossible legally to allow his return on humanitarian grounds when he faces a variety of criminal charges which the government has said should be dealt with in a special court in Hawaii.

Government Prosecutor Raul Gonzales whose investigations have led to charges that Marcos and his corrupt officials gutted the Philippine economy of billions of dollars, told Reuters: "The government will be in a very tight legal situation."

"If he is allowed to come back and he does not leave... you cannot force a citizen out of his own country. And if you don't allow him in, the government will look inhuman," he added.

Government troops Monday raided a machine shop the military said was owned by a civilian follower of Marcos and seized a cache of 30 automatic rifles, 800 sticks of dynamite, a grenade launcher and 3,000 rounds of ammunition.

Moscow, Peking said discussing new treaty

TOKYO (R) — The Soviet Union and China have begun secret contacts aimed at concluding a new non-aggression treaty, the Japanese newspaper Sankei Shimbun said Tuesday.

The newspaper, known for its anti-communist views, quoted unnamed Eastern bloc diplomats in Tokyo as saying officials of the two countries were meeting frequently in Moscow, Peking and Tokyo to discuss the proposed treaty.

The sources were quoted as saying the treaty, which they said could be signed later this year, would aim to remove threats from each other and lessen their military burdens.

But they said it would not foreshadow a resumption of the close military alliance Peking and Moscow maintained in the 1950s under a friendship treaty signed in 1950.

During the 1980s, China has refused to consider an improvement in political relations because of the so-called "three obstacles" — the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, Moscow's support for Vietnam's military presence in Kampuchea and Soviet troop concentrations along the Chinese border.

China's top leader Deng Xiaoping said last week he welcomed a Soviet decision to pull out of Afghanistan, but added that Moscow should follow up by convincing its ally Vietnam to withdraw from Kampuchea.

The Eastern bloc diplomats were quoted as saying that as U.S.-Soviet relations and U.S.-China relations had improved, it was natural Peking and Moscow should also move towards normalising relations.

Kashmir hospital death toll rises to 17

NEW DELHI (AP) — Three more bodies were recovered Tuesday from the wreckage of a children's hospital that collapsed in the northern state of Kashmir, raising the official toll to 17, the United News of India (UNI) reported.

The news agency quoted hospital authorities as saying as many as 32 people, including 22 children, were still unaccounted for and that the death toll could rise.

Rescue workers pulled 30 people alive from the rubble of the three-storey building Monday, UNI said.

Twenty-three of them, mostly children, were being treated at a makeshift emergency centre set up in a hostel normally used to house visiting political leaders, according to state-run All India Radio.

The collapse Monday has been blamed on structural defects.

The rescue operations are being carried out by civilians, police and army units. Cranes worked at the site removing blocks of concrete and brick to try to reach what remained of lower floors of the building.

R.S. Chib, the state's health minister, told UNI he expected rescue operations to be completed by Tuesday night.

Rescue workers said earlier that up to 50 more people may be trapped in the wreckage in Jammu, Kashmir's winter capital.

Most stores and businesses in Jammu closed Tuesday in sympathy for the victims and their families. Stores also were reported closed in neighbouring towns.

Soviets 'not under illusion of lead in space'

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Soviet scientist says that despite the delay in U.S. space exploration caused by the Challenger disaster, his country is not ahead in space.

Albert Galeev, co-chairman of the USSR Space Research Institute, said Monday that the Soviets have taken advantage of the two years that the U.S. has not been able to launch satellites easily, but he said both countries could learn from the other.

"We never have had the illusion that we were ahead," said Galeev at a news conference at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

"Temporarily, you've lost launch capability, but if you take into account the satellites waiting to be launched, the understand-

ing is that you'll easily catch up," he said.

The U.S. has not had regular space launches since Challenger exploded and killed seven astronauts Jan. 28, 1986. Since then, the space shuttle fleet, which was the main U.S. launch system, has been grounded. Flights are scheduled to resume in August.

"We took advantage of this delay," said Galeev. "We are still leading in a few fields."

He noted, however, that the Soviet Union had to launch more satellites because its equipment was not as durable as American models.

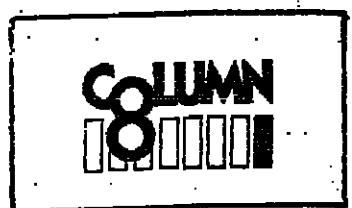
The news conference was held to mark the end of a week of meetings between Soviet and American space experts.

Soviet offer to Australia

In Canberra, Australian officials said the Soviet Union had offered to help develop a rocket launch pad in the Australian outback and put an Australian astronaut in space within a decade.

They said the Soviet offer came in talks Monday between Industry, Commerce and Technology Secretary David Charles and Victor Dukov, vice-president of the Soviet space agency, Glavkosmos.

Bruce Middleton, executive director of the Australian space office, expressed keen interest in the Soviet offer. He said an Australian-trained astronaut could be on board a Soviet spacecraft in the mid-1990s.



Police hunt for missing Koran pages

CAIRO (R) — Cairo museum took seven years of realise that priceless pages of a 300-year-old handwritten Koran had vanished, feared stolen. The Manshi Palace Museum sent a 95-page segment of a rare copy of the Holy Book for restoration in 1981. It was forgotten until a stock check this month showed it missing. The pages, nearly one-third of the Koran, had not been photographed and chances of finding them were slim, police told Reuters. "They may have been stolen — and we're seven years late on the trail," an officer said.

Fashion 'code' got drugs into prison

MILAN (R) — Suspected drugs traffickers have been using a fashion "code" to smuggle heroin and cocaine into Milan's San Vittore prison, according to police. Three people including an inmate were arrested after police discovered that orders from the prisoner for jackets, trousers and shirts were really for drugs. A police spokesman said a pair of trousers was 30 grammes (one ounce) of drugs, a jacket 20 (0.7) and a shirt 10 (0.35). Denim meant heroin, while linen and wool stood for cocaine.

Priest claims he ran drugs for charity

CARACAS (AP) — Venezuelan police detained a cocaine-smuggling priest who claimed he ran drugs to pay for charitable works in his parish, officials said Friday. The Spanish-born priest, Jose Luis Gil Fernandez, 57, was detained at Maqueta international airport outside Caracas Wednesday night after police found 21 kilos of cocaine packed in his suitcases. Intelligence Police Commissioner Osvaldo Granadillo said. Gil Fernandez, who for 24 years has been the parish priest at San Mateo, 60 kilometres west of Caracas, was headed for Madrid. A former priest, Juan Rojano Martinez, 54, and his wife, Graciela Ramos de Rojano, 46, were detained hours afterwards in Caracas and are alleged to have drawn Gil Fernandez into the smuggling trade, Granadillo said. In declarations to the local press Thursday, the priest said he had smuggled cocaine to Madrid on two previous occasions. He was paid \$9,000 for the first cargo of nine kilos in 1984 and \$32,000 for a second load of 14 kilos. He did not say when the second operation took place. The 21 kilo cargo would have netted him \$50,000, he said. "I gave it all to the church," Gil Fernandez said. "I paid for a new chapel in San Mateo, a parish boarding school, and decorations for the church altar, and I helped out the children who needed the money so much. I haven't got a penny of it."

Horses-or-police choice for San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — San Francisco is considering disbanding its 114-year-old police horse unit, as a tight city budget poses a painful choice: either the horses — or the officers who ride them — may have to go. The city faces a \$180-million budget deficit and the mayor's office has recommended that the police department cut its budget by more than \$7 million. "It's a matter of keeping the horses and letting some officers go, or vice versa," budget analyst Robert Gamble told the San Francisco Examiner newspaper.

Electric touch haunts woman

LONDON (AP) — Electric equipment tends to blow up when Pauline Shaw touches it. The 46-year-old housewife is so charged with static electricity that she has wrecked 25 household irons, 18 toasters, 15 kettles, 6 tumble dryers, 10 washing machines, 12 television receivers, 12 radios, three videos and at least 250 lightbulbs, together worth nearly £8,000 (about \$13,000). The Sun newspaper reported Tuesday that lightbulbs shatter when she tries to change them. When Mrs. Shaw programmes a washing machine, the fuses melt and the door flies open, spilling water everywhere. Eight-centimetre sparks fly from her fingertips when she gets near anything using electricity and she inadvertently boiled her pet fish alive by touching their aquarium thermostat. The desktop computers of bank cashiers and supermarket freezers also go on the blink when Mrs. Shaw goes near the Sun said.